SAINT YOUNG MEN

NAKAMURA HIKARU

EVEN SO, CHRISTMAS IS A BIG CELEBRATION THERE.

IN JAPAN, CHRISTIANS MAKE UP ONLY ABOUT 1% OF THE POPULATION.

SIGN: CHRISTMAS SALE - BARGAIN PRICES!! 30% OFF

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE ALL THE WAY!

BUT AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT...

THE TRUE MEANING OF THE HOLIDAY TENDS TO FALL BY THE WAYSIDE.

...BY THE WAY.

TUG

...WOULD I GET IN TROUBLE IF I POSTED THIS ON MY BLOG?

DING ALING ALING チロリロリン

YOU...DO KNOW WHY PEOPLE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS, RIGHT?

WHAT? OF COURSE I DO!

IS IT REALLY?

AAHH, NOW THAT'S NICE!

PLEASE GO EASY ON HIM.

THAT BUDDHA STATUE IS STARTING TO FEEL LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER TO ME.

IT'S THE DAY SANTA CLAUS MADE HIS FIRST SUCCESSFUL REINDEER FLIGHT!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 9

Holy Birthday

YES! THAT'S IT EXACTLY!
THAT ANSWER IS SO WRONG, IT ALMOST FEELS MIRACULOUS!
立川湯
TACHIKAWA BATH
吉田湯
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立川湯
TACHIKAWA BATH

吉田湯
YOSHIDA BATH

Ahhh...

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS. ...CHRISTMAS, HUH?

I MEAN, I WOULD ALWAYS WATCH IT FROM THE HEAVENS, AND THINK, "WOW, THAT'S A REALLY SPARKLY FESTIVAL THEY'RE HAVING DOWN THERE."

...HE'S TOO BUSY FUSSING OVER ALL THE HINTS THAT PEOPLE ARE PLANNING A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR HIM.

SNEAK コソ

コソ SNEAK

きょど GLANCE

GLANCE きょど

FIDGET ソワ

ソワ FIDGET

I'm not looking! It's okay!!

Oh, I'm not looking!!

Ah!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LORD JESUS

BECAUSE ABOUT THIS TIME EVERY YEAR...

YEAH, I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN.

HA HA HA...

SHIRT: JOSHUA

WELL, I CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS EXCITE-MENT...

AND ACTUALLY SURPRISE HIM THIS YEAR!

AN DWON DERZOF HIZLOV!

AN DWON DERZOF HIZLOV!

ゴクッ GULP

HE MUST THINK THEY'RE RUSSIAN OR SOMETHING.

HE ENUNCIATES THE LYRICS SO CLEARLY.

AND BECAUSE OF THAT, NO ONE HAS EVER SUCCESSFULLY SURPRISED HIM WITH A PARTY.

ヨシュア

ズーン POING

ズーン POING

ズーン POING

YOU'RE ASKING ME? THEN, CAN WE HAVE FRIED CHICKEN?!

KA-CHOP

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HAVE, JESUS?

KA-CHOP

ALLLL RIGHT, TONIGHT'S DINNER IS GOING TO BE THE BEST I'VE EVER MADE!

KA-CHOP

BUDDHA: I KEEP A BUNCH OF COUPONS IN MY TOTE BAG.

DON'T WORRY! I'VE GOT IT COVERED!

R-REALLY?!

OH, BUT YOU'RE A VEGETARIAN, SO I GUESS NOT...

B-DMP

B-DMP

I SAW A COMMERCIAL THAT SAID ON CHRISTMAS YOU'LL WANT SOMETHING FINGER-LICKIN' GOOD...

I'D LOVE TO MAKE THAT FOR YOU...

BUT I CAN'T COOK MEAT!

I saw it on a flier...

Ugh!

OH, I KNOW... I THINK PEOPLE HAVE ROAST TURKEY ON CHRISTMAS.

OH? WHAT'S THAT? ARE WE EXPECTING A PACKAGE?

HM?

KNOCK

KNOCK

BESIDES, TURKEYS ARE PRETTY EXPEN-SIVE...

WHAT?

UHH...? OKAY... WHAT?

STIR

STIR

STIR

STIR

STIR

I'LL MAKE YOU SOME OUT OF SOY!

I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW. WOULD A SOY FRIED CHICKEN BE ANY GOOD?

YES, WHO IS...?

Merry Christmas Sale

NO, THANKS! WE'RE GOOD!

SLAM

JESUS: I KEEP A GUIDE-BOOK IN MY BAG. I USED TO KEEP MAYON-NAISE IN THERE.

YES.

WHO WAS IT? A NEWSPAPER SALESMAN?

HMM... OKAY, I'LL FORGET ABOUT THE TURKEY.

OH, NEVER MIND. THIS DOES SMELL GOOD...

HERE, LET ME HELP OUT.

WHAT? NO, THAT'S OKAY...

SWEATER: HEAVEN AND EARTH

STOMP

TAKE THAT BACK BEFORE OUR DOOR GETS SMASHED IN!

BUT MAYBE ROAST BEEF OR BEEF STEW...

HUH? BY WHAT?

Aaahh! Rampaging cow!!

YEAH, SORRY...

AS SOON AS SOMETHING FLIPS THAT HUMOR SWITCH, I JUST CAN'T TURN IT OFF.

I'M FLATTERED, BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANY MORE PLATES TURNED INTO BREAD.

I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL LAUGHING ABOUT THE "RIB DANCE" GAG FROM MY MANGA.

MATSUDA: THE LANDLADY OF BUDDHA AND JESUS'S APARTMENT. SAYS HER NAME WITH A LISP. KEEPS CANDY IN HER BAG.

I CAN TURN THE BREAD BACK!

OH, I KNOW.

AWW, BUT...

I'LL BE FINE. YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY!

...BESIDES, I CAN'T MAKE HIM WORK ON HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY BACK ON EARTH.

CHOP

トン

トン

CHOP

トン

CHOP

ALTHOUGH, IF STONE TURNS TO BREAD WHEN JESUS LAUGHS TOO MUCH...

WOW.

HUP

HUP

*WELL, IF HE GETS **TOO** BORED, HE MIGHT REMEMBER THAT IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY.*

YEAH, SORT OF...

WAIT, WHAT? YOU CAN DO THAT?

I JUST DON'T, BECAUSE IT MAKES ME KIND OF TIRED.

...THEN TURNING IT BACK WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE HIS EMOTIONS, TOO.

I'M TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHY THIS WORLD IS SO FULL OF ENDLESS WAR.

STOP. DON'T TALK TO ME.

...JESUS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THE BREAD TRANS-FORMED FROM BIG, FLUFFY LOAVES TO SLIGHTLY SALTY LUMPS.

LET'S NOT DO THAT TODAY! THAT'S TOO SAD!!

...LET'S NOT...

CLENCH

...I HAVE TO MAKE MYSELF AS SAD AS I POSSIBLY CAN.

TO DO REVERSE MIRACLES ...

ALL RIGHT. ...I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE MUCH HELP.

NOD うん

NOD うん

YEAH! AND YOU CAN WATCH THE POT!

WE CAN USE YOUR BREAD TO, UM...

TO MAKE BREAD PUDDING!

OH, JUST TO THE SHOPPING DISTRICT TO BUY A CAKE...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BLEEEED!!!

UH.

THANKS!

STARE じー

OOO-KAY, I'M GONNA WATCH YOU!

AND I'LL JUST STEP OUT FOR A BIT WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT!

WELL, LET'S GO TOGETHER THEN. WE'LL JUST TURN OFF THE STOVE!

NOD うん

YOU WANT TO COME, DON'T YOU?!

SMILE ニコ

NOD うん

HAVE FUN...

WHEW, IT IS *COLD!*

I hope this doesn't ruin it!

I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT CHRISTMAS IS ALSO HIS BIRTHDAY.

I WAS REALLY HOPING TO KEEP HIM INSIDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...

IT DID SNOW WHERE I'M FROM...

BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE THE COLD.

CLANG カン

CLANG カン

IT WAS WARM WHERE I GREW UP, SO THIS WEATHER IS PRETTY HARD ON ME.

N-NOTHING, SORRY.

ドドド

They're one-size fits all.

ジャラ DANGLE ン

LONG ENOUGH, HUH...

IF ONLY HE COULD ADJUST THEM.

NO, THEY WON'T WORK. THEY'RE NEVER LONG ENOUGH.

YES, IT DOES HURT. IN DIRECT PROPORTION WITH THE SURFACE AREA.

YEAH, IT HURTS WHEN YOUR EARS GET REALLY COLD.

WHY DON'T YOU BUY SOME EARMUFFS OR SOME-THING?

POP ポン

SHRRR スルルル

ZZZZIP ミ"

CLICK カチッ

WHAT IS IT?

YOU JUST HAD AN INCREDIBLY RUDE IDEA, DIDN'T YOU?

I GOT IT!

I THINK...

SO WHY ARE THEY THIS LONG?

Hmmm...

...BUT I DON'T THINK THE LOBE PART OF THE EAR ACTUALLY HELPS WITH THAT.

STARE

...OH!

SUPPOSEDLY, I HAVE BIG EARS TO HELP ME HEAR THE CRIES OF THOSE SEEKING SALVATION...

Hmmm...

SQUISH
きゅ
むっ
...IF WE JUST DO *THIS*...
BUD-DHA?
PERFECT SILENCE ...
OH. RIGHT, I GUESS THAT WOULD TURN THEM INTO EAR-PLUGS...
EMPTI-NESS ...!
...
I CAN'T HEAR A THING.
AND THIS WILL KEEP THEM FROM FLAPPING AROUND.
IS THAT BETTER? EARS ARE WARM ON THE INSIDE.
THEY WERE PRO-FOUNDLY GRATEFUL FOR THE EARLOBES' NOISE-CANCELING FEATURE.
BUDDHA! BUDDHA!!
2,400 YEARS AFTER ACHIEVING NIRVANA, I FINALLY...
MURMUR
MURMUR
JUST A— BUDDHA, NOT SO LOUD...
I HAD NO IDEA! ALL THIS TIME, MY LONG EARS WERE A SHORTCUT TO ENLIGHTENMENT!

LOOK AT ALL THOSE PART-TIMERS WORKING HARD IN THEIR SANTA OUTFITS!

WOW! JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT TO SEE ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

X'mas SALE

IF YOU ASK FOR SANTA, WE'LL GET THE ORIGINAL!!

SAINT NICHOLAS

OH, COME ON, JESUS, LET'S LEAVE SANTA FOR THE CHILDREN.

Ha ha ha...

OH BOY, I WONDER IF SANTA-SAN WILL COME TO OUR HOUSE!

LET'S FIND SOMEWHERE THAT'S NOT CELEBRATING THE REAL CHRISTMAS.

GLANCE

WE HAVE TO STAY AWAY FROM ANYTHING RELIGIOUS ...

GLANCE

Aww.

CAROL-ERS!!

Aaand wo-oonders, wo-o-onders of His love

WONDERS WONDERS WONDERS WONDERS

HUH? HEY BUDDHA, I CAN HEAR THE "AN DWON DERZOF HIZLOV" FROM OVER THERE.

N-NO.

WE HAVE A POT ON THE STOVE. WE CAN'T TAKE DETOURS!

SAY, JESUS, LET'S GO THIS WAY. IT'S A SHORTCUT.

YES. THIS STREET SHOULD BE OKAY...

JE... YES!!!

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?

WH- WHAT?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE NOT CHRISTIAN!

JYES, JYES!!

JYES!!

NOD コク コク NOD

OH! ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?

AND IN THAT BROAD SENSE, THEN JYES, I AM A BELIEVER IN CHRIST!

B- BUDDHA ...

I AM NOT ACTING WEIRD AT ALL!

I *DO* BELIEVE IN YOU!

NO, I BELIEVE! I BELIEVE IN JESUS!!

OH! YOU ARE NOT A BELIEVER?

THEN PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRIST-MAS.

NOD コク コク NOD

WHAT'S WRONG, BUDDHA?! YOU'RE ACTING REALLY WEIRD TODAY!

BUT I DON'T THINK THIS IS REALLY THE BEST PLACE TO TALK ABOUT THIS.

Merry X'mas

BELIEVERS BOUND IN MATRIMONY

I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT...

WHEW, I ALMOST HAD A HEART ATTACK...

HUFF HUFF

Delicious CAKES Melty*

THAT WAS CLOSE.

SOMEHOW WE MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO THE CAKE SHOP...

CLING

OH, THEY ARE! HMM, WHICH ONE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

Are you excited about Christmas after all?

YOU'RE NORMALLY SO CALM! SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT!

NO, SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS GOING ON WITH YOU?

OH, LOOK JESUS, THOSE CAKES ARE SHAPED LIKE LOGS!

...!

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

...BUT IF HE FINDS OUT THAT I'M HERE...

...!

...FOR A BIRTHDAY CAKE INSTEAD OF A CHRISTMAS CAKE, IT'S ALL OVER.

...ALL RIGHT!

HUH? WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO DETER-MINED?!

I DIDN'T EVEN WANT THE SANTA!

YOU CAN HAVE THE SANTA FROM ON TOP OF THE CAKE!

...WASN'T THAT WHAT YOU WERE WORRYING ABOUT JUST NOW?

Y-you don't want one?

BUT... BUT IT SAYS IT COSTS AN EXTRA 200 YEN TO PUT ANOTHER SANTA ON THE CAKE.

You're covered in blood!

THIS IS NOT THE PLACE FOR YOU TO GO INTO SELF-SACRIFICE MODE!

I CAN MAKE IT IF I RUN! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!!

...TO PICK UP A SANTA SUIT...

SO I WAS THINKING THE TOY STORE MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO FAR AWAY...

WHATEVER, JUST COME RIGHT BACK—NO DETOURS!

The cheapest one they have!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE *YOU* WOULD BE WILLING TO BUY A SANTA SUIT!

...

NO... IT WASN'T THAT. I WAS JUST THINKING IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR THEM TO BOX UP THE CAKE.

チラ GLANCE

AND WE HAVE THAT POT ON THE STOVE....

YES, WILL THIS ONE DO?

UM, I'D LIKE A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR JOSHUA-KUN!

OKAY! NOW'S MY CHANCE!

The Hebrew version of Jesus.

OH, AND I'D LIKE ONE SANTA ON TOP OF IT.

IT SURE GETS DARK EARLY.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

Sant

Suit

JESUS SHOULD REALLY LIKE THE LOST SEASON ONE BOX SET...

I HOPE I GOT HIM A GOOD PRESENT...

LOST

I SPLURGED AND BOUGHT HIM A DS.

BUT MOST OF ALL, I WANT TO GIVE BUDDHA HIS PRESENT.

ME, NEITHER. I'M STARVING.

NOW I CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME!

MAN... SHOPPING ON CHRIST-MAS WAS FUN.

He's already wearing the hat...

I'M HUNGRY, TOO...

I GOT HIM THE GLOSS SILVER. THAT SHOULD BE THE BEST COLOR FOR HIM.

B-DMP

B-DMP

B-DMP

So he shouldn't have seen it yet.

I THINK HE SAID HE DOESN'T HAVE ACCESS TO FOREIGN TV SHOWS...

てくTEP

てくTEP

...HM?

THE NEIGHBORS EVEN DECORATED THEIR YARDS!

WOW, LOOK AT THIS...

I THINK THE PARTY IS ACTUALLY GOING TO BE A SURPRISE THIS YEAR.

ALL RIGHT, THIS IS GOOD.

I'M GONNA TAKE A PICTURE AND POST IT ON MY BLOG.

IT'S AMAZING, JUST LIKE THE STORES!

MAN, EVERYONE'S LIGHTS ARE ALL SO...

What a surprise!!

Whoa!

HE'LL BE SO SURPRISED! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!

I THINK I'LL WAIT TO SAY "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" UNTIL I SHOW HIM THE CAKE!

THESE DECORATIONS ARE MOVING! I'M GONNA TAKE A VIDEO!

COME TO THINK OF IT, HE FINDS OUT EVERY YEAR BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE MAKING PREPARATIONS ALL AT ONCE.

Oohh!

WHAT? WHERE? WHICH...

JOLT

JOLT

WH- WHOA!!

WHAT'S WITH *THAT* HOUSE? THAT IS BEYOND AMAZING...

BUT WHY?

BUT WHY WOULD IT BE LIT UP LIKE THAT? DO WE HAVE AN ARCHANGEL VISITING?

THAT'S... OUR HOUSE, ISN'T IT?

THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO VISIT. I MEAN, TODAY IS DECEMBER ...

OH.

...

...."OH," HE SAYS.

TRY TO BE A LITTLE MORE EXCITED !!

Hey! What are you doing?!! Sei-san!! You gonna open this door?!!

S-SORRY! I *WAS* SURPRISED! I WAS JUST *TOO* SURPRISED!!

おめでとう イエス・キリストよ

I TOLD YOU WHEN YOU MOVED IN! NO BIG, WILD PARTIES!

HONESTLY, THIS IS THE TROUBLE WITH FOR-EIGNERS.

Eh heh. Heh heh.

I hope she doesn't think we're some weird cult...

The angels went all out, as usual...

B-DMP

B-DMP

BANNER: HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS CHRIST

I'M SORRY, LANDLADY-SAN. IT'S JUST THAT TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY...

Deh heh heh...

Chasing out archangels!

SHE'S TOUGH!

GASP!

IF THIS HAPPENS AGAIN, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO MOVE OUT!

THERE WAS A WHOLE CHORUS OF YOUR FLASHY FOREIGN FRIENDS, BUT I GOT RID OF 'EM!

WOW, ON CHRISTMAS? THAT'S UNUSUAL...

I told her Joshua!!

SHE WROTE HIS NAME LIKE A JAPANESE ONE!!

Happy Birthday Yoshiya-kun

GASP

AND ALL THE ANGELS WATCHING FROM HEAVEN ABOVE SAID UNTO THEMSELVES, "THAT'S A BIT OF A STRETCH..."

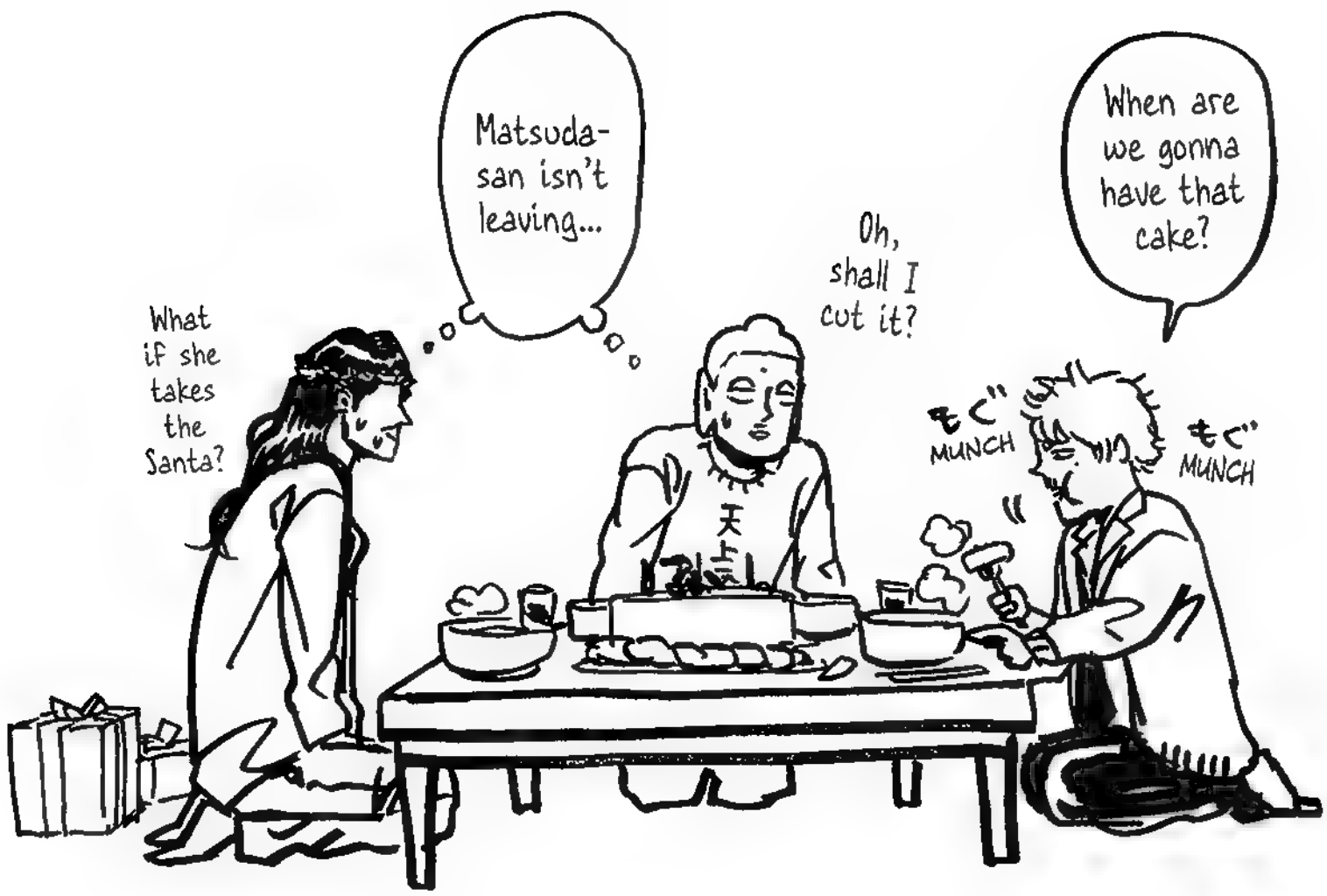
I... JUST TURNED 24...

UH...WELL, ACTUALLY, THIS YEAR...

TELL HER SOMETHING SHE'LL BELIEVE!

GASP

AND HOW OLD ARE YOU?


What if she takes the Santa?
Matsuda-san isn't leaving...
Oh, shall I cut it?
When are we gonna have that cake?
もぐ MUNCH
もぐ MUNCH

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

SEI

BUDDHA! IF YOU DON'T HURRY, WE WON'T GET TO RING THE NEW YEAR'S BELL!

迎春

NEW YEAR'S EVE

WREATH: WELCOME SPRING

I JUST DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH.

I KNOW, BUT...

SO IF I WANT TO HIDE IT...

GASP

!!

I GUESS MY TRADEMARK IS MY CROWN OF THORNS...

I'M JEALOUS. I WANT TO WEAR A DISGUISE, TOO...

キョロ GLANCE

キョロ GLANCE

WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?! WE'RE GOING TO A BUDDHIST TEMPLE FOR NEW YEAR'S.

HIDING YOUR HEAD IN A KNIT CAP? YOU'RE LIKE A CELEBRITY, BUDDHA.

Heh heh heh.

SEI

IMAGINE THE TROUBLE IF PEOPLE RECOGNIZE ME.

SWEATER: RAHULA

OKAY!

And I can't change the shape of my head.

BUT THIS'LL HAVE TO DO! LET'S GO, JESUS!

WELL, I CAN'T STOP MY EARS FROM SHOWING...

ニヤーフフ

AND WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DISGUISED AS?!

MY DISGUISE IS ALSO READY!

迎春

B-DMP
ドキ

B-DMP
ドキ

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 10

New Year's Self-Worship

SWEATER: GOOD SAMARITAN

BUDDHA: WHEN I THINK OF MORNING, I THINK OF COFFEE.

LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE!

It's like the commuter express!

OOHH!

SIGN: CORN

JESUS: WHEN I THINK OF MORNING, I THINK OF THE SUMO WRESTLER ASA-SHŌRYŪ*.

*ASA MEANS MORNING

OH, THESE ARE CUTE.

I'LL TAKE TWO OF THE LITTLE ONES, PLEASE.

I SEE, SO NEXT YEAR IS THE YEAR OF THE RAT...

OH, HERE ARE THE PRAYER PLAQUES.

BUT WHAT WOULD I EVEN WRITE? HMMMM.

WELL, IT DOES SEEM FUN...

SQUEAK SQUEAK きゅ きゅ SQUEAK キュ

I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THIS.

WHY NOT? TO REMEMBER OUR VISIT BY!

... WHAT?! WHY?!

THOSE PRAYER PLAQUES ARE FOR PRAYING TO ME...

HERE! THIS ONE'S YOURS!

WELL, ANY WISH *I* WRITE TO ME IS BASICALLY A RESOLUTION.

SO WHAT DID *YOU* WRITE?

キュッ SQUEAK

Give Ananda his ¥820 back. (For the detergent)

Buddha

THAT LOOKS LIKE A NOTE YOU'D LEAVE ON THE REFRIGERATOR.

May Buddha please say it's okay for me to buy a new laptop.
Jesus

WHY DON'T YOU TRY ASKING ME THAT TO MY FACE?!

CLAP!

CLAP

UM! UH! OH, YEAH! BELLS! WE CAME HERE TO RING THE BELL, RIGHT?

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PURIFY ALL THOSE EARTHLY DESIRES WITH THE NEW YEAR'S BELL...

HEY, WAIT.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE LINE'S ALREADY PRETTY LONG...

BEL...

Whew...

THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY RINGING ONE OF THOSE BIG BELLS!

B-BUT YOU GOT ME SEASON ONE OF *LOST*, SO OF COURSE I HAD TO BUY SEASON TWO.

YOU'VE BEEN THROWING AROUND WAY TOO MUCH MONEY SINCE CHRISTMAS!

EITHER WAY, THE ANSWER IS STILL NO!

I'm just so worried about Locke...

YEAH, BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BUY *24*, TOO!

WE'RE HEADING RIGHT FOR THAT PLACE WITH ALL THE PRIESTS.

YOU DON'T THINK THEY'LL FIGURE OUT YOU'RE BUDDHA, DO YOU?

WELL, I'M WEARING A HAT, SO IT SHOULD BE OKAY... I THINK...

AND THAT'S THAT! YOU WILL BE OUR 107TH RING.

107?!

JESUS, RUN! THERE'S ONLY ONE SPOT LEFT!

OOHH, SO WE'RE THE FINALE ?!

TEP TEP

EXCUSE US! THERE'S STILL ONE MORE SPOT FOR RINGING THE BELL, RIGHT?!

UH... NO.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT WE RESERVE THE 108TH RING OF THE NEW YEAR'S BELL...

Authorized Personnel Only

...FOR A MEMBER OF THE TEMPLE STAFF.

AWWW, REALLY?!

I'M VERY SORRY.

I SEE...

Authorized Personnel Only

Well, there's always next year.

TEP TEP

Authorized Personnel On

TURN

Authorized Personnel On

チ

FLASH

ラッ…

B-BUDDHA, STOP. YOU SHOULDN'T EXPOSE YOURSELF LIKE THAT.

BOW -!

…?

SHOWING SOME SKIN WAS NOT ENOUGH TO TEMPT THE PRIEST.

BUDDHA! CALM DOWN!

I MEAN, IT'S ME! I WON'T PUNISH YOU!

ACK!!

ANYWAY! I'M SURE THERE ARE SOME WORLDLY DESIRES THAT I FORGOT TO COUNT.

SO IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL BE PUNISHED FOR ERRING ON THE SIDE OF TOO MANY...

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!

YOU HAVE AN AURA... IF YOU GOT SERIOUS, YOU WOULD BE, LIKE...

...and no one would even notice.

Like I could wander around in full Buddha gear

MAYBE I JUST, I DON'T KNOW... DON'T HAVE THAT AURA.

SIGH... NOW I'M DE-PRESSED.

SIGN: FRANKFURTERS

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HER LIGHT-UP COSTUMES?

The biggest star!

SACHIKO KOBAYASHI CLASS!

COOL! THAT SOUNDS AWESOME!

Oohh

THEY SAY THAT IF YOU HAVE AN ACHE OR A PAIN, JUST PUT IT IN THE SMOKE, AND IT WILL BE HEALED.

OH, THAT? THAT'S INCENSE SMOKE.

NOW, NOW, BUDDHA ... TAKE A LOOK, THERE'S SOMETHING BILLOWY OVER THERE.

SIGH

THAT'S TRUE...

IT'S BEST TO BE HAPPY AND HEALTHY, AFTER ALL!

IS HE TRYING TO CHEER ME UP?

WHAT'S WRONG?! YOU'RE CRYING, AND YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD!

HAPPY AND HEALTHY... YEAH...

DON'T TORTURE YOURSELF TO THE POINT OF OPENING YOUR STIGMATA!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT IT DIRECTLY IN YOUR EYEBALLS!

PUFF もく

WELL, MY EYES HAD BEEN HURTING LATELY...SO I PUT THEM IN THE SMOKE.

もく PUFF

ALLLL RIGHT! GIMME GOOD LUCK! GIMME GOOD LUCK!

GIMME GOOD LUCK!

GIMME...

...YEAH. AFTER THE DISASTER WHEN WE TRIED AT THAT SHINTO SHRINE...

SHOULD WE GET ONE?

...WE'VE GOT TO GET GOOD FORTUNES THIS TIME!

SIGN: OMIKUJI 100 YEN EACH

YEAH...

And staring at the computer...

BESIDES, YOUR EYE PROBLEMS COME FROM WATCHING TOO MANY DVDS!

WIPE

WIPE

AH! OMIKUJI FORTUNES!

VERY GOOD LUCK
大吉
BUYING SOUVENIRS FOR FRIENDS WILL BRING YOU LUCK.

VERY GOOD LUCK
大吉
RETURNING HOME ONCE IN A WHILE WILL BRING YOU LUCK.

GOOD...

YEAH... YOU MIGHT CALL THEM HOSPITALITY FORTUNES.

THE HEAVENS MADE THESE JUST FOR US...?

I THINK...

WHAT WAS IT? MT. FUJI'S THE LUCKIEST, THEN A HAWK, THEN AN EGGPLANT, RIGHT?

MY FIRST DREAM, HUH?

YEAH, THAT SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING NO ONE COULD MANIPULATE!

UGH, THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THIS FAR!

NOW HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND OUT OUR REAL FORTUNES?

OH! HOW ABOUT YOUR FIRST DREAM OF THE YEAR?!

I DREAMED I TOOK A SERIES OF LOCAL TRAINS TO KYUSHU.

I HAD THE BEST DREAM EVER...

Ho ho... #

Ha ha ha...

OH? ALL BY YOURSELF?

WHAT DID YOU DREAM?

YOU KNOW, MY FIRST DREAM LAST YEAR WAS SO MUNDANE.

NO, I WAS WITH MY PAL BUDDHA, OF COURSE.

...BUT...

OH, BUT THE UDON WAS REALLY GOOD.

ESPE-CIALLY IF IT WAS A BUNCH OF REGULAR TRAINS.

THAT *IS* MUN-DANE...

*THE TITLE FOR THE CHIEF PRIEST

THEY SAY THE PRIEST'S FIRST DREAM OF THIS YEAR AGAIN FEATURED HIM EATING EGGPLANT ON MT. FUJI, BUT IT NO LONGER BROUGHT HIM JOY.

OSHÔ*?!

BUT THAT'S MUCH LUCKIER THAN MT. FUJI!!

OUR FIRST TEMPLE TRIP SURE WAS FUN!

BRRR, IT'S FREEZING. LET'S HURRY AND GET UNDER THE KOTATSU.

APARTMENT OF OURS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I KNOW YOU WANT TO SEE THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE YEAR.

YOU STILL NEED TO SLEEP. IT'S THREE IN THE MORNING.

I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT SLEEPY! THIS IS "ME IN 2008!!"

BECAUSE IT'S NIGHT-TIME!

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE JESUS? YOU'RE EVEN MORE HYPER THAN USUAL.

AND THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR!

COME ON, I'LL LAY OUT THE FUTONS, SO YOU GO BRUSH YOUR TEETH AND GET READY FOR BED!

THUD

SO WE'D BETTER GET SOME REST!

THAT'S THE OPPOSITE OF GETTING READY FOR BED!

OOF
ヒ,
ヒ,
OOF

人生ゲーム DX

BOX: GAME OF LIFE DX

BESIDES, BOARD GAMES AREN'T THAT FUN WITH ONLY TWO PEOPLE.

I was up late getting our New Year's meals ready...

THAT'S TRUE... BUT I'M SLEEPY.

IF WE *STAY UP* UNTIL THE FIRST SUNRISE, WE DEFINITELY WON'T MISS IT.

YEAH! I'D LOVE TO PLAY OLD MAID OR SOME-THING.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO PLAY? MAYBE A GAME OF CARDS?

OKAY, OKAY. I'LL PLAY WITH YOU.

OKAY, BUT IF I'M PLAYING, I'M PLAYING TO WIN!

It's been so long.

LATELY, I'VE ONLY PLAYED COMPUTER SOLITAIRE.

DON'T! YOU'LL START RUMORS ABOUT THE FIRST SUNRISE COMING EARLY TO TACHI-KAWA!

OKAY, GIVE ME A MINUTE. I'LL CALL A COUPLE OF ARCHANGELS.

I'm sure Michael or Uriel will...

BEEP
トゥルルル
BEEP

AND I'M ONLY TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE, NOW THAT WE'VE PLAYED THREE GAMES, I KNOW FOR SURE.

NO, I'M NOT. THE THING IS...

YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT OLD MAID.

ONE HOUR LATER

HMM, FOR SOME REASON I KEEP LOSING...

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

WHAT?! YOU'RE KIDDING!

BLUSH

YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOME-THING! I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED!!

FLASH

YOU LIGHT UP A LITTLE BIT WHEN I'M ABOUT TO TAKE THE OLD MAID.

OH, I'M DONE, TOO...

TWO HOURS LATER

WE BOTH MADE IT TO THE END...

WELL, THEN, LET'S PLAY THE GAME OF LIFE...

BAM

GOOD IDEA.

THAT SHOULD BE A NICE, NORMAL GAME...

Uh, he hasn't beaten that level yet...

FLASH

IT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLAY DS, TOO.

YOU LIGHT UP EVERY TIME YOU LOSE A LIFE IN A BOSS BATTLE.

I'm totally giving myself away!!

BLUSH!!

REALLY? I DO THAT?!

...OR EVEN BUILT A HOUSE.

You've been robbed!

Lose a turn

Had a baby! Girl Boy

Got a big inheritance x 20

Chance for marriage!

Travel overseas -3000

Got license +1000

is now yours! Forward 3 spaces

Built a house

RETIREMENT!

Back 10 spaces

BUT NEITHER OF US GOT MARRIED ...

IT'S A MIRACLE HOW AUSTERE BOTH OF OUR LIVES ENDED UP BEING.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU *COULD* GET THROUGH THIS GAME WITHOUT STOPPING ON A SINGLE EVENT SQUARE.

NO, JACK! WATCH OUT!

THE TRAITOR IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!

KPOW

WAAH!

HUSH

WELL, IT IS EIGHT O'CLOCK. MUST BE THE NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

IT SOUNDED LIKE WE JUST GOT A PACKAGE.

CLUNK

...SO *WHY* ARE YOU LEAVING KIM ALONE?!

Aahh!!

Go back!

HM?

YEAH.

...YOU WANNA WATCH *24*?

AOOO!

ARF

ARF

ARF

AAAHH! THE SUN IS ALL THE WAY UP!!

FSHHH

THE FIRST SUN-RISE!!!

WELL, NOW WE'VE DONE IT.

AAAHH! THIS IS WHY, FOR JUST A SECOND... I THOUGHT PUTTING ON A TV SHOW WAS A BAD IDEA!

I SENT ONE TO YOU, TOO!

REALLY ?!

Oh, it's from Ananda!

THERE SHOULD BE ONE FROM ME IN THERE.

Happy newyr

Buddha-sama, I really enjoyed reading your gag manga. I can't wait to see the next one.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I DIDN'T THINK OF IT, EITHER.

SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU UP ALL NIGHT, BUDDHA.

CLATTER カタン

YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS ONE'S FROM YOU.

OH!

I MADE IT ON THE COMPUTER THIS YEAR. I'M PRETTY PROUD OF IT, SO I SENT IT TO EVERYBODY.

FLIP

Oh, you're getting really good with the G-pen!

Happy New Year

Leaping into 2008!!

I look forward to

ANYWAY, LET'S LOOK AT OUR CARDS.

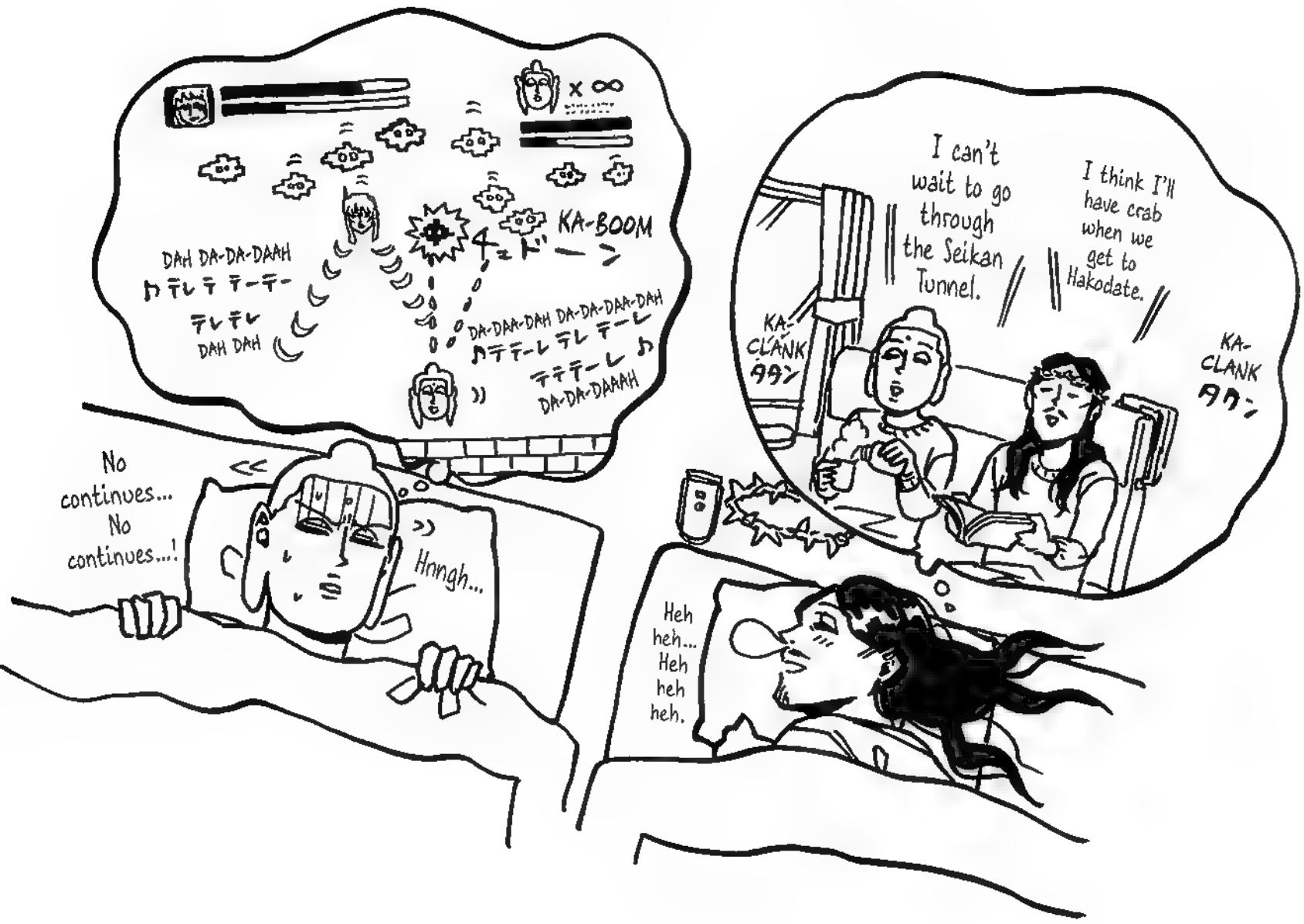
CELEBRATE!
THE COMEDY DUO HIPPIE AND MAN PERM IS BORN!!
The Kagami-Mochi Look!
My partner (lol)
2008
I'm glad we took the plunge and decided to vacation down on Earth. I look forward to another year together!
(^▽^)/
大漁

I EVEN SENT IT TO PEOPLE I DON'T USUALLY SEND CARDS TO.
I WAS PRETTY PROUD OF IT.
YUP!
DID YOU SEND ONE JUST LIKE THIS TO EVERYONE?
JESUS... THIS NEW YEAR'S CARD...

UH... BUDDHA?
ヒ° カ ァ..
FLASH
I'VE BEEN DYING TO SHOW IT TO Y—
SUR-PRISED?

THUS BEGAN THE MINOR URBAN LEGEND OF A "SECOND FIRST SUNRISE" IN TACHIKAWA.
HUH?! WHAT? SHOULDN'T I HAVE?!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!!
カ FLAAASH ァァァ。
BUDDHA... JUST A... WAIT! CLOSE THE CURTAINS FIRST!!

First Dreams of This Year



SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

I WAS HANGING THE LAUNDRY OUT TO DRY.

HUH? THAT'S STRANGE. WHERE AM I?

SWEATER: BRAHMA

...OF THE GREAT BUDDHA-SAMA?!

OH, MY! AM I IN THE HONORABLE PRESENCE...

GLANCE

OH, BOTHER. I WAS HOPING TO GET THIS DONE WHILE THE SUN WAS STILL OUT.

I guess I'll just hang it all out here.

GLANCE

OH! AND YOUR GAG MANGA IS ALL THE RAGE IN THE HEAVENS RIGHT NOW!

OKAY, I REMEMBER NOW.

Buddha-sama!

Buddha-sama!

WAIT... TAKE ME HOME? YOU MEAN...

OH, I WAS JUST PRACTICING LEVITATING WHILE SHINING...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

WHAT? ANANDA?! WOW, IT'S BEEN AGES!

IF YOU'D TOLD ME YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY, I WOULD HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU HOME!

You dropped your underpants! Pants! Pants!

...OH, BUDDHA!!

HUH? WAIT A— BUDDHA-SAMA?!

DASH

SORRY, I'M LEAVING!! I'LL COME BACK SOME OTHER TIME!!

WAIT!

I'M BACK, JESUS. I WAS JUST TAKING A SHORT TRIP HOME...

YOU JUST TOTALLY STOPPED BREATHING!!

HUFF

HUFF

I'M FROM A SPOT JUST ACROSS THE SANZU RIVER.

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 11

Hospital Fever

BUDDHA: IF THEY WERE TO MAKE A LIVE ACTION SHOW OF MY LIFE, I WONDER WHO COULD FAITHFULLY PORTRAY MY HAIR-STYLE AND EARS.

SWEATER: ABRAHAM AGE 100

OH, IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?

WELL... AT LEAST ANANDA SEEMED TO BE DOING WELL...

ONE MINUTE YOU'RE DOING THE LAUNDRY, AND THE NEXT YOU'RE PASSED OUT ON THE GROUND.

YOU REALLY SCARED ME!

JESUS: IF THEY MADE A LIVE ACTION SHOW OF MY LIFE, OF COURSE I WOULD BE PLAYED BY JOHNNY DEPP.

OH, RIGHT... THAT MIGHT BE WHAT CAUSED IT...

IT SNOWED YESTERDAY. I THINK YOU GOT TOO COLD.

LOOK AT THIS! 38.9 DEGREES*!

SHIRT: KARMA

*102.02°F

NO THANKS! NOT GOING! TOO SCARED!!

HOSP—?!

Better get the coats.

OKAY, LET'S GO TO THE HOSPITAL!

WE CAN TAKE A TAXI AND GET THERE IN NO TIME...

HUH?

Aaahh, it's cold!! Days like this are actually the best days for t-shirts!!!

I GOT A LITTLE OVER-ENTHUSIASTIC.

MAYBE IT WAS A BAD IDEA TO SPEND THREE HOURS MEDITATING IN THE YARD WEARING SHORT SLEEVES...

YEAH. THAT'S DEFINITELY WHAT CAUSED IT. YOU GOT WAY TOO CARRIED AWAY!

NO, NOT A CHANCE!

WHAT? ARE YOU AFRAID THEY'LL GIVE YOU A SHOT?

DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE WITH YOU.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "TOO SCARED"?

WE DON'T HAVE HEALTH INSUR-ANCE!

I'M AFRAID OF THE BILL!

RIGHT, MEDICINE AND STUFF GETS PRETTY PRICEY WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE INSURANCE...

UH, YEAH...

You really are indomitable...

It's like, try again when you have 100 of them.

AS A FORM OF ASCETICISM, SHOTS ARE SO WEAK THAT THEY'RE NOT EVEN WORTH THE TROUBLE.

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU AND YEAST, ANYWAY?!

OF COURSE IT'S NOT!

I MIGHT TURN YOU INTO BREAD, THOUGH. IS THAT OKAY?

GNN

And it would be really springy bread...

HMMM, IT'S NOT EASY TO DO ON SAINTS...

...BUT IF I TRY HARD ENOUGH...I MIGHT PULL IT OFF.

BUT IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY... CAN'T YOU HEAL THIS KIND OF THING?

AND MAYBE I'M IN NO POSITION TO ASK, BEING THE BUDDHA WITH A COLD.

O...OKAY, FINE. I...

NOT A CHANCE. WE'VE RUN UP ENOUGH EXPENSES AS IT IS WITH ALL OUR HOLIDAY SPENDING.

WHEEZE

WHEEZE

Come on!!

THEN WE HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL!

ANANDA (DRAWING BY BUDDHA): BUDDHA'S BELOVED DISCIPLE. IS ACTUALLY QUITE A HANDSOME MAN.

I SAW A FLIER FOR THE LATEST NOTEBOOK COMPUTER ON THE FRIDGE...

That was just a bit of interior decorating, I assume?

GRIN

YOU MEAN IT?

MRK

むぐ...

I PROMISE I WON'T BUY ANYTHING ELSE THIS MONTH!!

HUH? THE TAXIS AREN'T STOPPING FOR ME.

VROOM

VROOM

GWRRRM

NNNGH... MY VISION'S STARTING TO GO ALL BLURRY...

...I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN PLAYED.

How much of this was contrived?

NNNGH, WALKING MAKES MY HEAD SWIM...

WOW, REALLY?

I'M IMPRESSED. EVEN WITH A FEVER, YOU GET THINGS DONE.

THERE, YOU SEE? I GOT ONE ALREADY.

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ASSERTIVE ENOUGH.

SWOO

WAIT... I'M NOT SEEING THE BASE FARE LISTED ANYWHERE...

JUDGING FROM THE COLOR, MAYBE IT'S A PRIVATELY OWNED TAXI?

COME ON, GET IN. WE'RE BLOCKING TRAFFIC.

WHAT? WHY?

FLUTTER

BUDDHA...? I THINK MAYBE YOU'RE NOT ALL HERE...

SIGN: SUSHIZUKASA, LUNCHTIME 11:00 ~ 15:00, 800 YEN

THUS, JESUS LEARNED THAT YOU MUST USE YOUR WHOLE BODY TO HAIL A TAXI.

THAT DEER! FOLLOW THAT DEER!

T-TAXI!!

CLIP-CLOP

CLIP-CLOP

寿し司

ランチタイム 11:00 ~15:00 800円

DRIVER, TAKE US TO THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL, PLEASE.

COO-COO
COO
YES, THIS IS FINE. I'VE ALREADY FOUND HIM.
WE LOST SIGHT OF THE DEER, SIR. SHOULD I REALLY DROP YOU OFF HERE?
YEAH. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THAT IS A FEATHER BLANKET.
People are so warm...
HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD, BUT LEFT ME THIS FEATHERY COMFORTER...
WHSP
WHSP
COO-COO
COO
THAT TAXI DRIVER WAS SO FRIENDLY.
OH, JESUS.
WELL, EITHER WAY I'M GLAD WE MADE IT TO THE HOSPITAL. EVERYTHING SHOULD BE FINE NOW.
SIGH
NOW, IF YOU'LL WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS HERE...
OKAY, BUDDHA, I'LL GO CHECK YOU IN!
YEAH, THANKS.
EEEEEEK!
ME, TOO!
I... I THINK I MIGHT DIE, TOO!
WHAT'S WRONG, YOSHII-SAN? YOU'RE GOING HOME TOMORROW!
MURMUR
WHAT'S GOING ON? SUDDENLY THE ATMOSPHERE ISN'T SO...
MURMUR
MURMUR
CLATTER
EEEK!
THIS SEEMS LIKE A GOOD ONE, TOO. A NICE, BRIGHT ATMO-SPHERE.
IT'S ALL OVER. ...I'M ABOUT TO DIE!
Heh heh...

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! HE'S OFF THE CLOCK TODAY!

I SEE HIM, TOO...

EVEN AFTER ALL I'VE DONE, I CAN STILL GO TO HEAVEN...

Nnngh...

SOB

SOB

SOB

HE'S COME... HE'S COME TO TAKE ME TO THE OTHER SIDE!

Oohh!

SIGN: FIRE EXTINGUISHER

NO YOU CAN'T! THAT'S THE *YOUNG* LADY FROM THE RECEPTION DESK!

UGH, FINE.

AAHH... I CAN HEAR MY OLD LADY, CALLING MY NAME...

NUMBER THREE, YÛJI TANAKA-SAMA.

UH, JESUS? ARE YOU DONE CHECKING ME IN?

...

BLINK

GASP

しぽわ BLOOP

BLOOP ぽわ

BLOOP ぽわ

NOTHING. IT'S OKAY. IT'S ALL ABOUT AGAPE.

WHAT'S WRONG?

THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL HERE FOR EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT ISSUES...

I don't think they'll be taken home for a while.

I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE THE HOSPITAL LOSE ANY BUSINESS,

BUT I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO HEAL THIS CROWD OF PEOPLE!

HI-YAH!

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.

MY VOICE ...

...?

UH

SIGN: BONE STRUCTURE

I SEE. ANY OTHER SYMPTOMS?

...

UH

HE JUST COLLAPSED AND HAD A REALLY HIGH FEVER...

OH, THAT'S US, BUDDHA!

NUMBER SIX, SEI-SAMA. THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW.

NGH...

COUGH! COUGH COUGH!!

WHAT?! BUDDHA, DID I DO SOME-THING TO MAKE YOU MAD?!

DOES HE DO THIS FREQUENT-LY?!

PHOTO-GENE-SIS?!

FLASH

DOCTOR...

I...I HEAR SOME-THING...

CAN YOU HEAR ME, DOCTOR?

AND YOU'RE BLEEDING?! WHAT IN THE WORLD...

O-OKAY, I PROMISE I'LL STOP LOOKING AT PC SITES ON MY PHONE...

DON'T TELL ME YOU SAW THE CELL PHONE BILL I GOT TODAY?

FLASH

URK?!

I HAVE A TERRIBLE HEADACHE, AND I FEEL EXTREME PAIN...

...BEHIND MY EYES AND IN ALL OF MY JOINTS:

THERE'S SO MUCH PHLEGM IN MY THROAT, I CAN'T SPEAK. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, DOCTOR?

IT...

FSHHHH

IT...

THIS IS ALSO THE METHOD HE USED TO TELL THE LADY AT THE PHARMACY, "I DON'T WANT PILLS."

YOU COULD HAVE TRIED WRITING, OR HAND GESTURES, OR ANY NUMBER OF THINGS FIRST!

BUDDHA, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

...SOUNDS LIKE A COLD.

THAT'S ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

Prescription
✓Morning
✓Afternoon
✓Evening
~~3 times a day~~
Sei, Buddha-sama
Year Month Day

WHEW. NOW YOU'VE TAKEN THE MEDICINE THEY GAVE US AT THE HOSPITAL.

YOU WERE SO ACTIVE, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING.

OH, YOU'RE FINE.

Did you lose some weight?

I'M WORRIED ABOUT ALL THE TROUBLE I MIGHT HAVE CAUSED.

MY HEAD GOT SO FOGGY WHEN I STOOD UP...

I KNOW! DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU?

ANYTHING AT ALL!

TOUCHED

JESUS ...

AND BESIDES, YOU'RE ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF ME.

SO I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU WHEN YOU HAVE A COLD, NO MATTER HOW HARD IT GETS!

WELL, THIS FEVER IS PRETTY BAD.

WOULD YOU MIND COOLING DOWN MY FORE-HEAD?

OH, OF COURSE. OKAY, I'VE GOT THIS!

THAT SHOULD DO IT!

CHILL

TUG

THERE.

NOT A LIVING THING IF YOU CAN MANAGE IT.

WANT ME TO CALL A SNAKE?

I WAS HOPING MAYBE YOU COULD USE SOMETHING *OTHER* THAN MY EAR-LOBES...

UH... JESUS, WHILE THIS IS A LOT MORE PLEASANT THAN I EXPECTED...

FIGURES...

SO NOW WHAT? I'M STARTING TO GET REALLY NERVOUS.

ACTU-ALLY, NO.

SICK PEOPLE GENERALLY GET BETTER AS SOON AS I GET CLOSE TO THEM, SO...

AH, THAT MAKES SENSE.

Mm-hm.

YOU KNOW... LIKE YOU COULD WRING OUT A WET TOWEL...

SO... DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER TAKEN CARE OF A SICK PERSON?

WHAT?! THAT LONG?!

BUT A WEEK IS LONG ENOUGH...

JUST SO YOU KNOW, IT'S GOING TO TAKE AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE I'M BETTER.

YEAH... BUT THE HUMAN BODY NEEDS A LOT OF ENERGY TO CHASE VIRUSES OUT OF IT.

With time left over to rest on the seventh day!

FOR MY DAD TO MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD!

OH, WAIT, ARE *YOU* HUNGRY? I'LL MAKE SOMETHING!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

...YOU CAN LIVE OFF OF INSTANT NOODLES!

I WON'T BE ABLE TO COOK, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN...

BUT I SEEM TO REMEMBER HIM MAKING UDON ONCE...

IS...IS THIS REALLY A GOOD IDEA? LETTING HIM WORK IN THE KITCHEN BY HIMSELF?

...HM?

BOX: SUJATA'S MILK-RICE PORRIDGE

YOU'RE ALREADY RESORTING TO THE INSTANT FOOD I GOT FROM SUJATA-SAN!

HOW ABOUT SOME MILK-RICE PORRIDGE?

スジータの ちちがゆ

UH, SURE. OKAY. IT *IS* SICK PEOPLE FOOD...

Ugh.

DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT BOILING OVER.

I AM, I AM!

J-JESUS!

KEEP AN EYE ON THE POT!!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!

WAAAAH! YOU THERE! PLEASE DON'T DROWN YOUR-SELF!

GLUB

I JUST SAW A SOFTSHELL TURTLE CRAWL ACROSS THE FLOOR!

G-GNN

GLUB

WAAH! THERE ARE BIRDS OUTSIDE THE WINDOW WAITING TO GO TO NIRVANA!!

FLOCK

You're scaring me!!

FLAIL

FLAIL

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE *THAT* EAGER TO BUILD HIS STAMINA!

SHIRT: WHITE MUSTARD SEEDS

YOU MAKE IT SOUND NICE, BUT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT STARVING TO DEATH!!

WORST CASE SCENARIO, I'LL ONLY END UP GOING HOME...

I CAN LAST A WEEK WITHOUT EATING. I'LL BE FINE.

HOW RUDE. I CAN COOK BETTER THAN YOU THINK!

BESIDES ...

Lie down!

BUT YOU CAN'T COOK!

NN... NNNGH...

AAAH! THE POT'S BOILING OVER!

YOU KNOW WHAT, NEVER MIND THE FOOD!

WHAT? YOU DO?

FWUFF

Upsy-daisy!

I HAVE A SUPER SPECIAL SECRET RECIPE.

IT'S PERFECT FOR FEEDING PEOPLE WHO AREN'T FEELING WELL!

WHAT KIND OF RECIPE?

HEH HEH HEH. I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.

BUT I CAN GIVE YOU A HINT, I GUESS. WARM FOOD AND LAUGHTER ARE THE BEST MEDICINE.

JUST YOU WAIT—MY ARK WILL SAFELY SEE YOU THROUGH!

CHOP CHOP CHOP

OH...IT'S TRUE. HE IS SURPRISINGLY GOOD WITH THAT KITCHEN KNIFE.

AAHH, AND WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S STARTING TO SMELL GOOD...

I WONDER WHAT HIS SECRET RECIPE IS.

...HM?

OKAY, BUDDHA, IT'S READY!

THIS IS MY SECRET RECIPE...

!! I-I KNOW THIS SMELL! IT CAN'T BE...

JOLT

WAIT— NO, DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD!

...TO MAKE MISO-TERIOUS WHEY.

GOD WORKS IN MYS-TERIOUS WAYS...

BUT IT'S MY MOST SOLID MATE-RIAL!

WHAT? WE CAN'T?!

FLUTTER

DO YOU THINK WE CAN GET TO THE M-1 GRAND PRIX WITH BAD PUNS LIKE THAT?

BRRR

POOF

JESUS ...

YOU HAVE TO RE-MEMBER...

BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO TASTE IN COMEDY!

Miso-terious whey is

Oh!

IT CRACKS UP THE ARCH-ANGELS EVERY TIME.

IT IS SAID THAT, WHILE IN THE HEAVENS, BUDDHA LET SLIP TO ANANDA THAT, "I THINK MY SENSE OF HUMOR IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN MY COMEDY PARTNER'S."

Your under-pants!

Oh! Buddha-sama!

BUDDHA!!

OH, NO... I'M GOING HOME AGAIN...

ASIAN HUMOR IS MORE, YOU KNOW... NUANCED.

Trying a Comedy Duo with Ananda

SUCH WONDERFUL WORDS, BUDDHA-SAMA!!!
No, Ananda, that's too much like Oriental Radio.
And so, I just needed to grow my ear-lobes a couple millimeters...

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

HIS FACE AND EXPRESSIONS TRANSFORM WITH THE TIMES, FROM ARTIST TO ARTIST AND TREND TO TREND.

IMAGES OF BUDDHA VARY FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY AND ERA TO ERA.

...HM?

HUH?

じ G-GNN

じっ GNN

BUDDHA, TOO, CHANGES WITH THE TIMES...

SHIRT: KING OF SERPENTS MUCALINDA

Ha ha ha ha ha

I-I AM NOT! THEY JUST SHRUNK A LITTLE WHEN I WASHED THEM YESTERDAY!

YOU SEEM TO BE FILLING THEM UP MORE THAN USUAL...

YEAH. AND I JUST WASHED YOURS, TOO, SO...

WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?!

GNN!

NAMU-SAN!!

竜王ムタリンダ

WHOA, WAIT! ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT WEARING *MY* JEANS?

UH...

HUSH

WAH...

I BETTER HANG THEM UP...

RRRIP

IT'S NOT A MIRACLE. IT'S JUST REALITY.

YOU'RE JUST USING IT ON BLUE-JEANS NOW!!

OH! DON'T WORRY, I GET IT! IT'S JUST THE SAME KIND OF MIRACLE MOSES-SAN PERFORMED.

ドロニカ

竜王ムチリンダ

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 12

Portly Prince?!

BUDDHA: THINGS THAT MAKE ME SAD: WHEN THE HOUSE-HOLD ACCOUNT BOOK DOESN'T ADD UP.

THEY SAID I LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE THE GREAT BUDDHA OF NARA.

That's the guy we saw on our school trip!

ACTUALLY, WHEN I WENT OUT SHOPPING EARLIER, THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS SAW ME.

JESUS: THINGS THAT MAKE ME SAD: WHEN I HIT THE BACK BUTTON AND LOSE MY BLOG POST.

YOU DON'T LOOK *EXACTLY* LIKE THE GREAT BUDDHA OF NARA!

NOW HOLD ON... YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE BIGGER THAN BEFORE.

It wouldn't be *so* bad if it'd been Kamakura...

BUT NOW THERE'S NO DENYING IT.

I THOUGHT MAYBE I HAD HEARD THEM WRONG...

I'M GONNA TAKE UP JOGGING AND LOSE THIS WEIGHT!

ANY-WAY, MY MIND IS ALREADY MADE UP.

YEAH... THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE.

WE'VE BEEN ALTOGETHER TOO SEDENTARY SINCE WE CAME DOWN TO EARTH.

THANKS. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT BOTHERS ME ABOUT IT.

FOR ONE THING, YOUR NOSTRILS AREN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR A CHILD TO CRAWL INTO.

Just a pencil, and only if you really try.

EXACTLY. AND EVERY TIME WE SAT DOWN, IT WAS A LITERAL AIR CHAIR.

I mean, we were standing on clouds.

Burns 210 calories an hour

That was a workout...

I MEAN, UP IN HEAVEN, WE WERE ALWAYS LEVITATING.

NO, I'LL PASS... I MEAN, YOU KNOW.

... WHAT ...?

RIGHT? WE CAN TOTALLY DO THIS!

You can do it!

BUT IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA TO STAY HEALTHY!

I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO LOSE WEIGHT.

I DON'T CARE! I BET YOU'RE EVEN MORE OUT OF SHAPE THAN I AM!

You can't only raise your level in virtual space!!

BUT... NO! I DON'T WANT TO! IT'S STILL COLD OUTSIDE!

I only play the free version!!

HEH HEH... I'VE BOUGHT US SOMETHING EVEN BETTER.

We don't even have a Wii...

We can do yoga!

OH! IN THAT CASE, HEY, WHY DON'T WE GET WII FIT?!

RUNNING ACROSS THOSE PLAINS DOESN'T BUILD STAMINA, IT BUILDS HP.

Yessir Lv18

I BUILD STAMINA EVERY DAY BY RUNNING ACROSS THE VIRASULA PLAINS.

HP 620
MP 210

All you do is click.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW QUICKLY THE "GIVE HIM A COSTUME AND SEE IF HE PLAYS THE PART" STRATEGY WORKS ON HIM.

WHEW

B-DMP ドキ

ドキ B-DMP

))

A SWEAT-SUIT!

BUDDHA SURE IS QUICK TO SPEND MONEY ON SPORTS-WEAR...

OKAY! THEN LET'S START WITH SOME WARM-UP EXERCISES!

BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW.

I'm not Flexible.

JUST WATCH ME AND YOU'LL BE FINE.

Hup!

IF WE DON'T STRETCH PROPERLY, WE'LL PAY FOR IT LATER.

NOW HOLD IT.

...Nn...?

GO! ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR.

ALL RIGHT ...

Owuuu...

GO! ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR.

OTHER SIDE!

AND KEEP THIS POSE FOR 10 SECONDS.

UH... WELL, I...

HUH ...?

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, JESUS? DID I GO TOO FAST?

JESUS TOOK THIS TO BE A "SURPRISING SAINT TRICKS" CONTEST.

WHAT?! IS THIS A COMPETI-TION?!

I CAN TOUCH MY INDEX FINGER TO MY PINKY!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TA-DAH!

I DON'T THINK I'VE RUN SINCE THE SIXTH CENTURY...

BUT TELL ME, BUDDHA. WHY JOGGING?

WOW, I HAVEN'T BEEN RUNNING IN AGES.

BUT THE DEVAS* ARE SERIOUSLY OPPOSED TO ME LOSING WEIGHT.

YEAH, I COULD.

You don't need to run...

IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO,

YOU COULD FAST YOURSELF DOWN TO SKIN AND BONES, NO SWEAT.

*DIVINE BEINGS, RESIDENTS OF THE HEAVENS

HMM, GOOD QUESTION.

BY THE WAY, HOW FAR ARE WE RUNNING?

I SEE. SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE WORKING OUT.

Nothing cute about being too skinny!!

Stop that!!!

IF I START FASTING, THEY'LL START POURING NUTRIENTS DIRECTLY INTO MY BODY THROUGH MY PORES.

THEY'LL COME UP TO ME SAYING, "SAINTS SHOULD BE A LITTLE PORTLY!"

...WHAT?! ARE YOU SURE?! BUT THAT'S SO CLOSE!

I WAS THINKING WE COULD JUST GO TO ONI PARK...

HUH?!

Talk about power harass-ment!!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING A DRUNK OLD MAN WOULD SAY WHEN HITTING ON A SECRETARY!

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE *HENRO* PILGRIMS?! YOU'RE STEREOTYPING THE WHOLE RELIGION!!

Walking Distance

SOME OF YOUR PEOPLE THINK THAT THE ENTIRE PERIMETER OF SHIKOKU ISLAND IS A GOOD WALKING DISTANCE...

WELL, YEAH, BUT...

DIDN'T I SAY WE WERE JUST GOING TO JOG AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

BUT I THOUGHT...

WHAT?!

WHERE DID ALL THAT ENERGY COME FROM?!

DASH

ALLLL RIIIIIGHT! WATCH ME, BUDDHA! MY RUNNING EARNED ME THE NICKNAME "SHOOTING STAR OF BETHLEHEM!!"

OHHH, WELL IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, NOW I'M WAY MORE MOTIVATED!

TEP

TEP

TEP

MAYBE WE CAN BOTH ENTER THE TACHIKAWA MARATHON NEXT YEAR.

I GUESS THEY DON'T CALL HIM A SHOOTING STAR FOR NOTHING...

OKAY! IN THAT CASE...

OH, WOW, I'VE ALREADY LOST SIGHT OF HIM.

WELL, AT LEAST HE'S ON BOARD WITH JOGGING NOW.

SO HE'S THE "SHOOTING STAR" BECAUSE HE BURNS UP AS SOON AS HE ENTERS THE ATMOSPHERE...

OOHH...

MY SIDE HURTS...

I'M TOTALLY FINE!

WHAT? NO!

FINE. WE'LL WALK FOR A WHILE.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T PACE YOURSELF.

THIS LOOKS LIKE GOLGOTHA?! WITH THE BARS AND EVERYTHING?!

IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO IT, DON'T PUSH IT! JUST TELL ME!

BAR WAY OF GRIEF

I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW THIS SLOPE LOOKS LIKE GOLGOTHA, AND I FELT A BIT OF A STABBING PAIN.

BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOUR SIDE HURTS.

I DON'T WANT TO SLOW YOU DOWN WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO LOSE WEIGHT...

UH, YEAH, BUT IT'S JUST FROM MY STIGMATA.

I...I NEED TO CATCH MY BREATH...

NNGH...MY STIGMATA ARE READY TO...

OOZE

OF COURSE I WILL!

WHAT'S UP, JESUS? ARE YOU PLANNING TO GIVE BIRTH?

To what? Bread?

HEE HEE HOO

HEE HEE HOO

DO YOU THINK THEY USE THIS SAME BREATHING TECHNIQUE IN EVERY COUNTRY?!

I HAVE TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

YES.

YOU *ARE* PUSHING IT, AREN'T—

OH, BUT HEY, BUDDHA!

I got it wrong?!

AAHH! IS THAT THE LABOR BREATHING TECH-NIQUE?!

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF BREATHING TECHNIQUE WOULD LEAD TO A BIRTH LIKE THAT.

What?!

I WAS BORN FROM MY MOTHER'S RIGHT SIDE, SO I WOULDN'T KNOW.

Sorry...

That's odd...

WHAT?

HMM, I DON'T KNOW...

When she had me!

I THINK IT'S WHAT MY MOM DID!

I-I'M TELLING YOU, I'M FINE!!

ビ' WINCE

ビ"

AND YOU'RE COVERED IN SWEAT. LET'S TAKE A BREAK.

YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN BAD SHAPE...

UGH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME!

Here!

WELL AT LEAST WIPE YOUR FACE.

SUDDENLY

TUMBLE

HAHA, OH, MAYA-SAN...

SHE STILL ASKS, "DID I GIVE BIRTH AGAIN!?"

AND BECAUSE OF IT, EVERY TIME SHE DROPS AN UNDERARM SWEAT PAD,

Heh heh heh...

...BUT NEVER MIND THAT, JESUS.

IT'S OKAY... WE'RE ALMOST DONE WITH THIS HILL.

WIPE ゴシ

ゴシ WIPE

MY T-SHIRT CAN HANDLE THIS JUST FINE!

NO, I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING...

WHAT?!

OH, GOOD! YOU FINALLY ADMITTED IT!

GASP

OH, NO! DON'T TELL ME!

STOP ピタ

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE!

TEP てこ TEP てこ TEP てこ

HUH?

AND WHEN WE GET TO ONI PARK, IT WILL BE DOWNHILL ALL THE WAY BACK!

SERIOUSLY, I'M THREE SECONDS AWAY FROM ASCENSION ...

OH, COME ON ALREADY ...

ベロニカ

SHIRT: VERONICA

OH MAN, I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO PUT THIS WEIRD IMPRINT ON IT!!

WHAT IS THIS? A MIRACLE?

This was a new shirt!

AAAHH!! I KNEW IT!!

BUDDHA'S SILKSCREEN SOUL BEGAN TO ACHE.

NO... I'M ACTUALLY REALLY JEALOUS...

It will come off in the laundry...

...WILL END UP WITH THIS DESIGN ON IT.

WHEN MY HP IS IN THE SINGLE DIGITS, ANY CLOTH I WIPE MY FACE ON...

B-DMP

B-DMP

I'm tired!

THAT'S OKAY. IT'S JUST OUR FIRST DAY!

IT LOOKS LIKE I REALLY HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF SHAPE.

MAN, I'M SO SORRY ...

OH! I KNOW! WE CAN RIDE THOSE!

BUT I THINK I HEARD YOU HAVE TO EXERCISE FOR 20 MINUTES STRAIGHT, OR YOU WON'T BURN ANY FAT.

YEAH, BUT THIS ISN'T HOW A HORSE MOVES...

HORSE-BACK RIDING WAS AN OLD HOBBY OF MINE.

BOING

...IT'S FUN.

WOW, THIS IS PRETTY TIRING ...

IT'S LIKE THOSE RODEO BOY FITNESS MACHINES THEY HAVE THESE DAYS.

OH... THE ONES THAT HELP YOU GET THIN THROUGH SIMULATED HORSEBACK RIDING?

WHAT? WHY?

I'm just starting to enjoy it...

OH! MAYBE WE SHOULD GET OFF NOW, BUDDHA...

UGH, STOP THAT!

OOHH! SOME-ONE'S TALKING LIKE A PRINCE!

WHOA, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT LOOKS SO GALLANT !!

THAT AXOLOTL IS GETTING SO INTO THIS, HIS FACE CHANGED...

IT'S OKAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO TENSE! YOU CAN RELAX!

And hey, I thought it was a Frilled lizard?!

YOU DON'T THINK IT WILL MAKE KIDS CRY, DO YOU?

WHAT DO WE DO? IT HAS THE FACE OF A CREATURE ON A MISSION...

THAT'S OKAY. I DON'T WANT YOU PASSING OUT. YOU CAN GO BUY SOME.

I'M SORRY. HE'S JUST SO HONEST ...

Pocari's okay, too!

NO, NOT REALLY ...

I'D LIKE SOME AQUARIUS*.

*A BRAND OF SPORTS DRINK

UH, YEAH. I GUESS SO...

ARE YOU GOOD TO RUN AGAIN?

OKAY, THEN! YOU READY TO GO HOME?!

YOU'RE NOT THIRSTY?

Mmm, *hanpen*...

I DON'T THINK HE LOOKS LIKE THE GREAT BUDDHA OF NARA. I THINK HE LOOKS LIKE *HANPEN* FISH CAKES.

YEAH, YEAH. LET'S JUST SEAL YOU AWAY.

AND WOW, YOU REALLY ARE TALK-ATIVE.

GOOD POINT.

BUT I DON'T WANT BUDDHA TO GET THIN...

HMMM, WHAT SHOULD I GET?...

IF WE GO WITH SOMETHING WITH ZERO CALORIES, BUDDHA CAN DRINK IT, TOO.

HE'S TAKING A LONG TIME...

EIGHT MIN-UTES LATER

OH! THAT ONE SAYS IT BURNS FAT!

BEE-BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP KA-CLUNK

BEEP

BUT THAT'S A GOOD POINT ABOUT ZERO CALORIES.

JESUS! IF YOU CAN'T DECIDE, JUST GET SOME TEA...

I DON'T WANT TO HANG OUT ALONE. I'M AFRAID THE DEVAS WILL COME AFTER MY PORES.

TEP TEP TEP

B-BUDDHA, HELP ME!

UGH, HE IS SO HOPELESS.

That's a distinct possibility...

DON'T TELL ME HE STILL CAN'T DECIDE BETWEEN POCARI AND AQUARIUS.

TEP

I KEEP WINNING MORE DRINKS...

WHAT DO I DO?

ピピピピピピ BEEP

ピピピピピピ BEEP

AND THEY CURL MY HAIR.

THEY STRETCH OUT MY EARS.

...THEY TELL ME I SHOULD BE A LITTLE PORTLY ...

NO MATTER WHAT I CHOOSE, THE ONLY THING I GET IS OSHIRUKO.

AND FOR SOME REASON ...

Does this mean...?

THE TASTES OF THE DEVAS ARE BEYOND HUMAN UNDER-STANDING.

SHH!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING A FISHCAKE SAINT?!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MY PERSONAL BRAND IS SUPPOSED TO BE!!

I can't wash this...
Oh, but I really hope you save me...
O Lord... Please help me! Thy will be done...
You're going to throw me into that giant whirlpool?!
When I can't swim?!
WHRR
WHRR

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

...THE KINDLY EXPRESSIONS OF THEIR MOTHERS AS THEY WATCH OVER THEM...

Ah ha ha ha...

BOING 1♯

BOING 1♯

Kya ha ha ha!

IN A PARK FILLED WITH THE VOICES OF LAUGHING CHILDREN...

HEY, BE— NO, NO! BE CAREFUL!

AH...

...ARE THE VERY IMAGE OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

TH-THAT'S A GOOD POINT. BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN HIS OLD WOUNDS MIGHT OPEN UP AGAIN...

Amen!

Amen!

NERVOUS

NERVOUS

YOU HAVE TO LET THEM LIVE A LITTLE, GET A FEW BUMPS AND SCRATCHES!

BUT YOU CAN'T LET WORRY CONTROL YOU!

SHIRT: KANTHAKA

AAHH! YOU SEE, JESUS?! I TOLD YOU!

AAHH!!

DASH

カンタカ

OH, DEAR. I *WOULD* WORRY ABOUT LETTING HIM ON THE TRAMPOLINE THEN...

HEH HEH HEH. IT IS A LITTLE SCARY TO SEE THEM ON THE TRAMPOLINE, ISN'T IT?

WHAT A YOUNG FATHER.

BOING 1♯

BOING 1♯

UH, YES. HE JUST JUMPS SO HIGH...

JUST HOW SICKLY IS THIS CHILD?!

I'm not going home!

No, no!

IF YOU JUMP THAT HIGH, YOU'LL ASCEND BACK UP TO HEAVEN!

SHIRT: SALOME

Cool! He's Floating!! That's so awesome!!

Me, next!!

Me, next!!

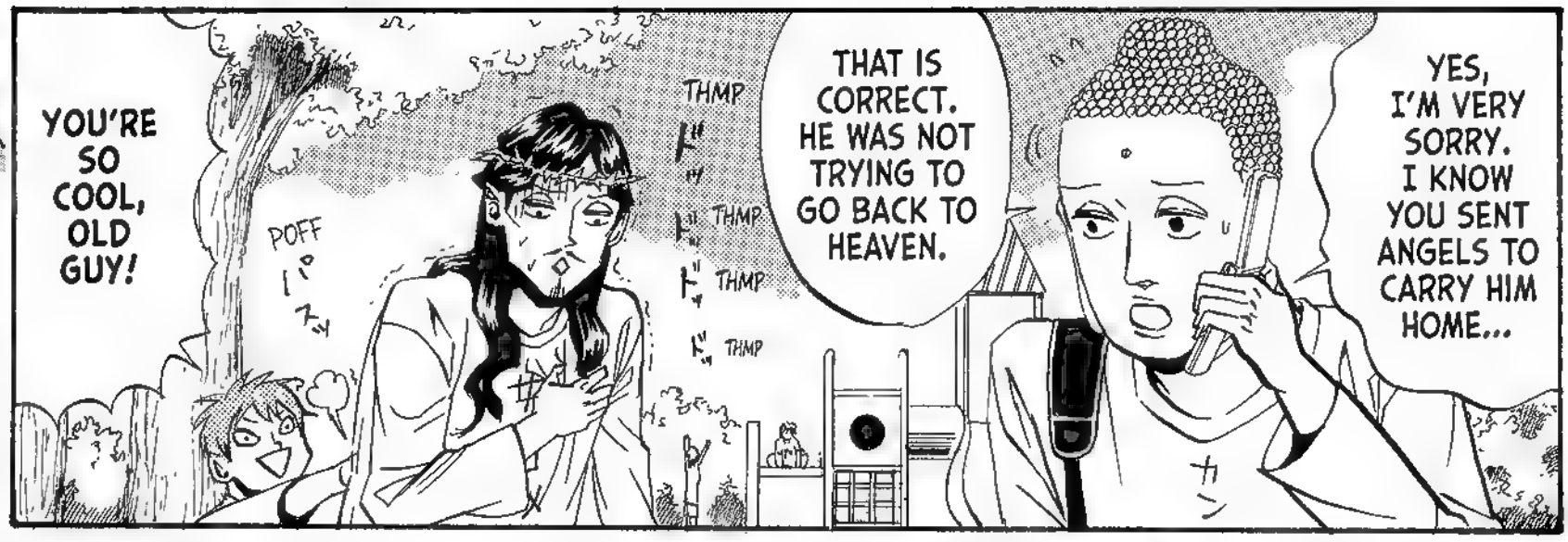
Ugh!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 13

The Park Nearest-Heaven

BUDDHA: I LIKE MYSTERY NOVELS. MY NUMBER ONE SUSPECT IS ALWAYS THE PERSON CLOSEST TO THE MAIN CHARAC-TER.


YOU'RE SO COOL, OLD GUY!
POFF
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
THAT IS CORRECT. HE WAS NOT TRYING TO GO BACK TO HEAVEN.
YES, I'M VERY SORRY. I KNOW YOU SENT ANGELS TO CARRY HIM HOME...

JESUS: WHEN I READ MYSTERY NOVELS, I START AT THE END.

HEH HEH. OF COURSE.
DO YOU THINK I COULD GO UP HIGH LIKE THAT SOME-DAY?!
I TOTALLY RESPECT YOU!
WHAP
That's "young" guy!
OH, HI. YOU'RE THE BOY THAT WAS BOUNCING WITH ME.

WHAT?! YOU WERE TALKING TO MICHAEL?!
OKAY. I'D BETTER EMAIL HIM AN APOLOGY.
Here's your bag.
MICHAEL-SAN WAS WORRIED.
UGH, YOU CAN'T GO LOSING CONTROL LIKE THAT.

YOU'RE AWFULLY NAIVE IF YOU THINK ATTACHING A CUTE PICTURE WILL GET HIM TO FORGIVE YOU!
I'M SORRY
FORGIVE ME OK?
...IS MICHAEL A CAT PERSON OR A DOG PERSON?
BEEP
BEEP
I don't know.

ALL HUMANS WILL GO THERE EVENTUALLY, SO OF COURSE YOU CAN, TOO.
PAT
For real?!
COULD YOU NOT SAY VAGUELY THREATENING THINGS LIKE THAT, JESUS?!
SNAP

IT'S THE PERFECT WEATHER FOR A PICNIC!

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE IN SUCH HIGH SPIRITS.

THAT SKY IS SO BLUE YOU COULD FALL INTO IT!

TODAY, I BROUGHT A SOBORO* LUNCH...

YEAH, LET'S DO THAT.

GROOOOWL

キュルル…

WANNA HAVE LUNCH, BUDDHA?

I'M HUNGRY AFTER ALL THAT JUMPING.

*GROUND CHICKEN

OF COURSE IT DID! THIS IS JUST LIKE SAND ART!

It's too amazing..

Whew...

LAYING OUT THE GROUND CHICKEN FELT VERY SOOTHING SOMEHOW...

AND SINCE I WAS MAKING LUNCH ANYWAY, I THOUGHT I'D DO A LITTLE ART.

AMEN

THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL "A LITTLE ART"?

WAIT... WHAT ARE *YOU* GOING TO EAT?

WELL, I'M DIETING.

OH, IF THERE'S ANY LEFT, PUT IT IN THIS LID, OKAY?

AND IT TASTES GOOD, TOO.

BUDDHA, BEHIND YOU! BEHIND YOU!!

DON'T MIND ME. THE AIR ALONE IS ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN ME.

カンタカ

UGH. YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL HOW YOU SIT.

I'll rebound!!

I appreciate the thought, but no thank you!

?

ALL RIGHT, LET ME TRY...

OOHH, I LIKE IT! I FEEL LIKE THAT FAMOUS SONG IS ABOUT TO PLAY IN THE BACKGROUND!

Heh heh heh...

YOU KNOW, LIKE THIS.

...IS TRY TO LOOK AS ***BAD*** AS POSSIBLE.

OOHH, AN EDGY, DANGEROUS SAINT.

AWW, THEN HOW SHOULD I SIT? HUGGING MY KNEES?

YOU GIVE OFF THIRTY PERCENT MORE AURA WHEN YOU SIT CROSS-LEGGED LIKE THAT! SO DON'T DO IT IN PUBLIC!

NO, WHAT YOU ***SHOULD*** DO...

BONK
BONK
RACING THROUGH JETAVANA IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
RINGING A STOLEN WOODEN GONG AND BREAKING ALL THE WINDOWS.
AH?!
GASP
SO TONIGHT I'LL DO IT—I'LL RENOUNCE THE WORLD.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THE PAMPERED PALACE LIFE...
With a little "Graduation" mixed in...
OOH, "A NIGHT AT 15"!
SORRY! I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU AND OZAKI WERE SO SIMILAR IN REAL LIFE!
I'm sorry, but I'm leaving!
Siddnartha-sama, please don't go!!
YOU MEAN MY NIGHT AT 29...?

OH, NO! I STEPPED ON ONE OF BUDDHA'S LANDMINES!

Y-YEAH, BUT THAT WAS SO LONG AGO...

Siddhar-tha!!

You will be the king of the world!

...THIS IS JUST... BRINGING UP A LOT OF OLD MEMORIES...

...YEAH. IT'S OKAY, I'M FINE!

Ha ha...

THERE ARE A LOT OF FUN-LOOK-ING THINGS TO DO!

C-COME ON. I'M DONE EATING. LET'S LOOK AROUND THE PARK SOME MORE.

OH, LOOK, BUDDHA! THEY'RE RENTING BICYCLES!

BICYCLE RENTALS

WE NEED SOME-THING FUN...

I MEAN, THE MYRIAD FORMS OF GRIEF IN THIS WORLD ARE TRIALS, GIVEN TO ME AS A TEST.

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

HE'S PREACHING TO HIMSELF. IT'S HOPE-LESS!

AHH, GOOD IDEA.

THEN I'LL CHOOSE...

Look, look! A mountain bike!

THEY HAVE ALL DIFFERENT KINDS!

IT'S A BIG PARK. WE COULD USE ONE TO GET AROUND.

HE MUST BE FEELING REALLY DOWN IF HE'S TAKING THE BACK SEAT ON A TANDEM BIKE.

...THIS ONE.

THMP

THAT'S NOT TRUE. ...THIS IS VERY NORMAL.

YOU WOULD NEVER NORMALLY CHOOSE SUCH A FUNNY BICYCLE.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

BUDDHA IS SMILING...

BUT HE'S PROBABLY FORCING IT.

FSHH

YEAH!

ALLLL RIGHT! HERE WE GO!

JESUS!

WHAT CAN I DO TO BRING SALVATION TO HIS HEART?

Hngh!

JESUS ...

BECAUSE WITH THIS BIKE, WE ONLY HAVE TO PAY FOR ONE.

WHEW

OKAY. YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL.

YOU'RE HAVING VIRTUOUS THOUGHTS, AREN'T YOU?!

YOU...

YEAH, I FIGURED!

WELL, PACK IT IN! WE DON'T WANT YOUR LOVE POWER!

WAAAHH!! I'M SORRY!!

MY AGAPE FOR YOU WAS... MAXED OUT!

NGH...

IT DOESN'T MATTER! JUST THE FIRST THING THAT POPS INTO YOUR HEAD!

UMM ...

BUDDHA, YOU...

YOU...

WELL DO IT THEN! HURRY!

ACTUALLY, IT MIGHT WORK IF *I* CALLED *YOU* NAMES...

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING!

An RC bike?

YOU DIRTY HIP-PIE!

OKAY... THEN WHAT IF I TRY... UH...

EASIER SAID THAN DONE. IT'S LIKE YOUR HALO— I CAN'T JUST...

INSULTS AREN'T GOING TO HELP! THEY DON'T WORK ON ME!

Awesome! It's like E.T.!!

POMPOM HEAD BUDDHA !!!

OKAY, YOU...

I...

? WAIT. WAS THAT AN INSULT?

THUD

...WHAT?

IT SOUNDED LIKE A CHARACTER FROM A SILLY KID'S SHOW.

WHAT?! EXPLAIN TO ME HOW THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MEAN!

You're actually making me nervous!

WAH!

I HAVE SINNED...

THE DOOR TO HEAVEN HAS BEEN CLOSED TO ME!!

HE GAVE ME THE STAGE NAME "MAN PERM" WITHOUT BATTING AN EYE, SO WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

I'M SORRY... I'M REALLY SORRY!!

REALLY?!

BEAM

YEAH, THANK YOU. I OWE IT ALL TO YOU!

THERE'S NO POINT IN GETTING DEPRESSED ABOUT THE PAST, AFTER ALL.

AHH, WELL. I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WHAT?! WE'RE GETTING A CHICK BOAT?!

WE'D LIKE TO RENT A CHICK BOAT FOR AN HOUR, PLEASE!!

AND WE'D LIKE A BLUE ONE!!

THOSE KIDS HAVE GOOD TASTE.

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE WOULD CHOOSE A NORMAL BOAT.

That's okay.

This way, please!

BLUSH

ONLY FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE RIDING IN CHICK BOATS!

OH! LOOK, THEY HAVE BOATS.

AND NOW THAT I'M FEELING BETTER...

OOOHH! I LIKE IT!!

WAAH! HE'S ALREADY IN SUPER-PEDAL MODE?!

SQUEAKY

SQUEAKY

SQUEAKY

SQUEAKY

HNNGH...

Mama! Is it okay for grownups to ride in chick boats?

Oh, my... Hee hee hee...

They think we're heart-warming!!

JESUS, WE REALLY DO STAND OUT, SO IF YOU COULD TRY TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE...

YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME, SO *PLEASE* TRY TO BE DISCREET...

HOLD ON, JESUS! WE'RE MAKING A SCENE! WE'RE MAKING A SCENE!!

SPLAAASH

I...I'M SORRY, JESUS. I CAN PEDAL NOW!

IF ANYTHING, IT'S MY OWN HEART I SHOULD FEEL EMBARRASSED ABOUT!

IT'S OKAY, BUDDHA...

SQUEAKY

SQUEAKY

SQUEAKY

HE HAS SUCH A FAR-OFF LOOK IN HIS EYE...

GASP

OH...

WHAT HAVE I DONE? MY FRIEND WAS HAVING A GOOD TIME, AND I CALLED HIM EMBARRASSING.

HALT

...

WHAT? YOU'RE SEASICK?!

I'm about to lose my lunch...

ACTUALLY... COULD YOU TRY NOT TO ROCK THE BOAT?

I FORGOT. I GET SEASICK SUPER EASILY.

Whew... Look-into-the-distance therapy...

My head was full of ...little chickies...

AFTER YOU WERE SO GUNG-HO ABOUT GETTING ON THIS THING!!

Jesus-sama! Please don't stand up!!

You're sending a storm? Take a hint!!

I told you it makes me sick, so why are you rocking the boat?!

I'D YELL AT THE SEA A LOT TO GET THE WAVES TO STOP.

BEING AWAKE ON A BOAT WAS TOO OVER-WHELMING.

SPLAASH

I'M SURE EVEN THE OCEAN THOUGHT THAT WAS UNREASONABLE.

YES, MY DISCIPLES DID THE ROWING.

BUT I THOUGHT YOU USED TO TRAVEL BY BOAT ALL THE TIME.

I WOULD SPEND EVERY TRIP ASLEEP.

NO! NO DASHING ACROSS THE WATER! PEOPLE ARE WATCHING!

I'LL GET US TO SHORE, SO YOU JUST GO TO SLEEP!

I'm getting off...

NNGH... I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. I'LL JUST GO ON AHEAD TO SHORE.

WHAT'S WRONG?

SQUEAKY

SQUEAKY

YOU'RE DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE MONEY, I SEE...

HM?

OH, IT'S JUST...

THAT'S OKAY. WE'LL JUST WALK HOME TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

SQUEAKY

SQUEAKY

NNGH... BUT THEN WE WOULD HAVE WASTED THE RENTAL FEE...

GAUTAMA FORD

We'll take the Ganges in one second!!!

IT'S WHERE I SET THE RECORD FOR THE FASTEST RIVER CROSSING ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

...A FORD ON THE GANGES WAS NAMED AFTER ME.

OOHH! THE FASTEST MAN ON THE GANGES!

WHAT?

OH, NO, I WOULDN'T SAY *THAT*...

BUDDHA, ARE YOU LIKE A MASTER ROWER?!

I FEEL ALL BETTER NOW!

JOLT

I MEAN, IT IS TRUE THAT...

GLAD TO HEAR IT. NOW WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME WITH THE BOAT!

THIS IS GREAT. I NEVER THOUGHT IT COULD BE SO INVIGORATING TO BE ON TOP OF A LAKE.

I DUNNO ...

OH, YOU'RE OVERREACTING. THESE FOOT-PEDAL BOATS ARE EASY.

So let's *not* walk home...

AND I OWE IT ALL TO YOU, BUDDHA. THANK YOU!

IT'S ALMOST LIKE SITTING ON A DOWN COMFORTER ...

I FEEL SO GOOD, IT'S LIKE THE SEATS ARE TURNING SOFT AND FLUFFY.

SEE? EVERYONE ELSE IS STRUGGLING WITH IT.

WH-WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S NOT GOING THE WAY I'M STEERING IT.

YOU CAN DO IT, PAPA!

SWAY

SWAY

AND WITH YOU PEDALING...

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, JESUS?!!

JOLT

WAIT. NO! I'M NOT JUST IMAGINING IT!!

WHOA! I KNEW IT!!

NO, CHICKIES! DON'T FOLLOW US!!

WHOA, YOU'RE RIGHT...

Aaahh!!

Why are we going that way?!

IT'S NOT SAFE! DISPERSE!

Whoa! Why is it moving?! I'm not even pedaling!!

THE CHICK BOAT HAS GROWN INTO A MATURE CHICKEN THROUGH SHEER FORCE OF WILL!

Waaah! Waaah!!

NEVER MIND THAT, BUDDHA! LOOK AT THIS!

JESUS! MAKE SURE TO WASH YOUR LUNCHBOX!

...ERE LONG, THE DAY DREW TO A CLOSE...

WOW, JESUS. I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT...

I took a pic.

DRAMANDALA!!

MY FRIEND MADE ME A LUNCH

AMEN

I MADE A SECTION ON MY BLOG FOR YOUR LUNCHES, AND IT'S A BIG HIT!

THUS, JESUS DISCOVERED A CARD THAT WOULD HAVE EVEN MORE SWAY OVER MICHAEL THAN A CAT-OR-DOG PIC.

...YOU *ARE* USING LUNCHES AS PART OF YOUR ASCETIC TRAINING, AREN'T YOU?

Awww...

Erase the picture"

BUT MANGA LUNCHES ARE BEAUTIFUL *BECAUSE* THEY DISAPPEAR.

Bingo. Michael was a cat person.

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

MANY WHO BELIEVE IN GOD OR BUDDHA DREAM OF MAKING PILGRIMAGES TO THESE HOLY LANDS.

BETH-LEHEM... BODH GAYA...

HEH HEH HEH. I SUPPOSE SO. OKAY, HERE'S A HINT.

KA-KLUNK

COME ON, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU TOLD ME WHERE WE'RE GOING?

KA-KLUNK

INDEED, ALL PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ...

SHIRT: I RENOUNCED THE WORLD

SHIRT: BABEL

BUT TAKING A REGULAR TRAIN TO NAGASAKI WOULD BE A GOOD FORM OF ASCETIC TRAINING.

...I DUNNO.

I wouldn't want one.

Like a fumi-e cell phone strap?

...IS THERE ANYTHING TO SHOP FOR ON KURO-SHIMA?

SHIRT: MOE

HEH HEH. HE'S EXCITED. HE **HAS** BEEN WANTING TO COME HERE FOR A WHILE!

GLANCE

GLANCE

WHOA ... YOU'RE KIDDING!

HUH? BUT THIS IS...

OH, HERE WE ARE. THIS IS OUR STOP.

PSHHH

BUT FOR YOU, I THINK IT MIGHT BE MORE OF A PILGRIMAGE.

FOR ME, IT'S JUST SHOP-PING...

OH, REALLY? A HOLY LAND IN JAPAN?

...HAVE THEIR OWN HOLY LANDS.

OOHH!!

HE'S GENU-FLECTING ?!

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 14

Pilgrimage

BUDDHA: I'M GOOD ENOUGH WITH CHOPSTICKS TO PUT JAPANESE PEOPLE TO SHAME.

THEY SAID THERE'S NO PC COMPONENT THAT CAN'T BE FOUND HERE...

AMEN NOODLES, RAMEN NOODLES, FRIED RICE NOODLES: R-AMEN'S FOODIE FOOT TOUR BLOG

2008.2.9 Nakano's Famous...

The shop opens at five in the evening. It claims its bestseller is the negi miso ramen, but I've never seen anyone order it. They should just take it off the menu. All their customers order salt ramen. The clear, golden broth that comes from the chicken bones and vegetables practically glows. And the soft, thin noodles are a perfect match to this simple soup.

2008.2.8 Speaking of PC Parts

When they hear Akihabara, most people think of the sub-

R-AMEN— THIS BLOGGER I REALLY RESPECT— CALLS AKIHABARA A HOLY LAND.

JESUS (PORTRAIT BY BUDDHA): NOT THAT GREAT WITH CHOPSTICKS, BUT I LIKE THE SOUND OF THE ENGLISH WORD.

NOMADO - COMO

YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE YOUR FEET ACTUALLY DO TOUCH THE GROUND.

Special Sale EPSON Printer

ACTUALLY, YOU'RE FLOATING A LITTLE.

FWH

AAHH... THE JOY OF SETTING FOOT ON THIS BLESSED LAND!

3F DIGITAL CAMERAS, PRINTE

AND NOW THAT WE'VE CONVERTED IT INTO JAPANESE YEN...

BACK IN HEAVEN WE WERE PAID WITH THE FEELING OF CONTENTMENT THAT COMES FROM SEEING PEOPLE SMILE.

OH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT IS PAYDAY, ISN'T IT?

I'M GOING TO GO WITHDRAW SOME CASH. DON'T ASCEND TO HEAVEN WHILE I'M GONE.

SOF

ATM

ORDINARY DEPOSIT (AND DETAILED STATEMENT)

DRAWALS	DEPOSITS	SUMMARY	REMAINING B
6,000	TACHIKAWA ELEC	ELECTRICITY F	35,284
8,092	KTTI CHARGES	PHONE F	27,192
1,180	TACHIKAWA GAS	GAS F	26,01
HEAVENS	260,000	TRANSFER F	286,01
50,000	FUTATSUI SUMITOMO		236,0
1,200	ANANDA	CARD *	234,8
4,005	SATOGAZAI	CARD *	230,80
19,000	SEFEN BANK	CARD *	211,80
30,000	FUTATSUI SUMITOMO		181,807
27,000	ANA	CARD *	154,807
MAYA	27,000	TRANSFER F	181,807
50,000	FUTATSUI SUMITOMO		131,807
29,000	SEFEN BANK		102,807
12,000	TENKAI NO KUROPUNE		90,807
5,400	TACHIKAWA ELEC	ELECTRICITY F	85,407
8,022	KTTI CHARGES	PHONE F	77,385
1,192	TACHIKAWA GAS	GAS F	76,193
HEAVENS	260,000		336,193
80,000	FUTATSUI SUMITOMO		256,193

4.21
4.24
4.25
4.30
5.1
5.13
5.15
5.15

YEAH... IT REALLY HIT US HARD THAT THE YEN IS SO STRONG.

We should have vacationed somewhere with a lower cost of living...!

IT'S KIND OF SURPRISING THAT WE ONLY EARN 260,000 BETWEEN THE TWO OF US.

SERIOUSLY, LONG LIVE PAID VACATION!

I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE THIS PURCHASE, TOO!

What could it be?

HEH HEH HEH... I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR A LONG TIME NOW...

You're just going to spend it all?!

...A-AND NONE OF THAT IS FOR RENT?!

SO BUDDHA... HOW MUCH CASH DID YOU TAKE OUT?

80,000 YEN*.

YEAH.

BUT IF WE SCRIMP AND SAVE, THEN WE CAN BUY WHATEVER WE WANT.

STARE

*ABOUT $800

COULD IT BE...

WHAT COULD YOU BE BUYING FOR 80,000 YEN, AT AN ELECTRONICS STORE, THAT I WOULD LIKE...?

OH, THE FIRST FLOOR IS WHERE THEY SELL LAPTOPS.

GLANCE

WOW, I THINK I LIKE ELECTRONICS STORES.

GLANCE

A PS3?!

OH, DID YOU SAY WE'RE GOING TO THE SIXTH FLOOR?!

GAMES TOYS

WHAT?!

WH-WHAT'S WRONG, JESUS? WHY ARE YOU SO FIDGETY?

FIDGET

FIDGET

N...NO, I...

NO, THAT'S OKAY! LET'S GO BUY IT! NOW!!

JESUS, ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO LOOK AROUND?

NO WAY, REALLY?! BUT IT IS JUST THE RIGHT PRICE!

BUT HOW WOULD A NEXT-GEN CONSOLE WORK ON OUR 17-INCH TV?

OH, HERE IT IS! THIS IS IT!

PATENTED HASHIRITAKI

PRESSURE COOKER

SOFT PEARL FINISH

I DEFINITELY RECOMMEND IT!

JAPAN MADE

IH SYSTEM

12:34

SOFT PEARL FINISH

¥79,800

10%

HASHIRITAKI

5F

Home Appliances

THE RICE COOKER WE HAVE NOW CAN'T EVEN KEEP IT WARM.

THE POT IS MADE OF ANNEALED COPPER, SO IT REALLY LOCKS IN THE FLAVOR.

I MEAN, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE 8,000 YEN ONE OVER THERE?!

IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFER-ENCE.

I'M STILL TRYING TO DECIDE BETWEEN THIS ONE AND THE CARBON-COATED ONE FOR 82,000...

GINSHARI STEAM

Delicious with Diamond

DIAMOND CARBON-COATED RICE COOKER

10%

YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY GOING TO BUY THAT ROBOT-HEAD OF A RICE COOKER, ARE YOU?

BUDDHA... YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

80,000 YEN JUST TO COOK RICE?

I DO! COMPUTERS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM YEAR TO YEAR!

AND IF WE'RE GONNA GO THERE, YOU'RE ALWAYS INSISTING THAT YOU NEED THE LATEST COMPUTER!

THESE ARE ON A COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN THE 8,000 YEN ONES!

HUH? WELL, I...

I CAN CUSTOMIZE IT MYSELF, SO IF I OVERCLOCK IT JUST RIGHT, I CAN GET IT TO RUN THREE TIMES FASTER!!

AND THEY HAVE WAY BETTER GRAPHICS CARDS!

FIRST OF ALL, THE SLIM LIGHTWEIGHT MODELS HAVE 50% MORE BATTERY LIFE!

THE INSIDE HAS A TEFLON COATING AND A STAINLESS MIRROR FINISH, SO IT'S GUARANTEED TO LAST AT LEAST THREE YEARS!

THIS JAR USES A FLAT FRAME, SO MAINTENANCE IS A BREEZE AND DOESN'T MAKE A MESS!

AN ELECTRONICS STORE IS LIKE A DIFFERENT COUNTRY ON EVERY FLOOR...

...DAD HAD COME AND CONFOUNDED THE LANGUAGE OF AKIBA SO IT WOULDN'T GET ANY MORE ADVANCED!

Sigh...

...BUDDHA, ARE YOU SPEAKING JAPANESE RIGHT NOW?

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

...?

YOU STARTLED ME! I WAS *SURE*...

WHAT A RELIEF!!

WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT WAS THAT, ARAMAIC?

...THEN IT'S TIME TO GET TO WORK...

Thank you!

REALLY?

I UNDERSTAND. I WON'T FIGHT YOU ON THIS ANYMORE.

BUT ANYWAY, I KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS CAREFUL NOT TO WASTE MONEY.

OUR PILGRIMAGE HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

WHAT?! THIS ONE'S ALREADY 30% OFF!

CLUNK

...AND GO TO EVERY STORE IN AKIBA TO COMPARE PRICES.

SIGNS: COSTUMES, COSPLAY

コスチューム

JESUS, I FOUND A STORE I THINK YOU'LL— *AH!*

コスプレ

?

?

<3, WHIRL

コスチューム

ANYWAY, THIS PLACE REALLY IS COVERED IN INTERESTING STORES.

コスプ

OH! LOOK!

THERE'S NO POINT IN COMING TO AKIBA IF WE'RE JUST GOING TO BUY SOMETHING FROM THE FIRST STORE.

WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME AND DO SOME SIGHTSEEING WHILE WE'RE AT IT.

IS THAT HOW IT WORKS?

OF COURSE *NOW* HE ACTS LIKE THE SHOOTING STAR OF BETHLEHEM!

WHOA! THAT INDECISIVE-LOOKING MAN IN THE WINDOW WAS JESUS!

STARE じ…

JACK SPARROW

You can be a pirate too!

AND THAT PIRATE COSTUME ...!

SNEAK そ…

He put it on!

FAIR

IT'S ALMOST LIKE... MY DESTINY ...

...AS IF... I HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO BUY IT.

YOU DID IT. YOU RESISTED.

NO! I REALLY SHOULDN'T !!!

JOLT

GOOD JOB FENDING OFF MARA!

MUTTER ぶつぶつ

...PAJA-MAS.

KA-POP ぽっ

...I *CAN* BUY IT.

STAY STRONG!!

WAIT, BUT I WOULDN'T USE IT!

STAY STRONG, JESUS!!

I CAN'T SPEND 14,000 YEN ON AN OUTFIT I'LL NEVER WEAR!

ONLY THE SANTA AND SHINSENGUMI COSTUMES I BOUGHT HERE ON EARTH.

Ha ha ha, it looks great on you!

Oohh!

SO DO YOU HAVE A LOT OF OUTFITS LIKE THESE?

WAIT... THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

OH, JESUS, HERE YOU ARE.

I'LL JUST ACT LIKE I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.

COSPLAY

FITTING ROOMS

OH, SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO LEAVE YOU— I JUST COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.

BLUSH

YEAH... I REMEMBER THAT. EARTH COSPLAY...

THE JEANS AND T-SHIRT LOOK STARTED AT A COSTUME PARTY IN THE HEAVENS.

OOH! IT HAS A BUTTON!

CLICK

A trans-formation wand.

YEAH, THAT'S FROM ONE OF THOSE SUNDAY MORNING CAR-TOONS.

BUT THE COSTUMES HERE ARE WAY HIGHER QUALITY THAN WHAT I HAVE.

OH! LOOK, THEY EVEN HAVE PROPS.

MAGICAL ☆ SHOOTING STAR!

Ha ha ha.

OH, WOW! IT EVEN TALKS!

And lights up.

CHANGE ME INTO MY MOST POWERFUL FORM!

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

HA HA, LISTEN TO ME!

POOF

MAKE UP!!

S-SIR!

In the name of the stars, I'll punish you!

FWOOSH

...LIS-TEN TO ME...

THE OUTFIT WAS HIS SUNDAY BEST.

YOU WERE REALLY GETTING INTO THE PART WITH THAT WAND, WEREN'T YOU?

Here. You dropped your clothes.

I'M SORRY ...

And I saw a flash go off! No photog-raphy in the store!!

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM TRYING ON COSTUMES OUTSIDE OF THE CHANGING ROOM!

I HOPE IT MAKES ITS WAY TO THE VATICAN SOMEDAY...

JVC

コスプレ COSPLAY

I mean, it was already glowing.

I hope it doesn't 'cause any weird miracles.

SO I LEFT IT IN THE FANTASY SECTION.

HE THOUGHT IT WAS FROM THE SHOP.

CLUB SEGA

LOOK! WHAT'S THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE A MINI THEME PARK!

WELL, LET'S REGROUP. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO NEXT?

WHAT?!

WAIT! NO OFFENSE, BUT AREN'T YOU SUPER BAD AT THOSE?!

TEP

OKAY, I'M GONNA GO PLAY IT!

OOHH! IT LOOKS LIKE THAT ONE LETS YOU PLAY AGAINST THE PERSON IN THE SEAT IN FRONT OF YOU...

B1F

WHOA! YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S ALL VIDEO GAMES!!

OH, I THINK THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL AN ARCADE.

LOOK AT THAT HUGE VIRTUA FIGHTER SETUP!

NOW JUST YOU WATCH!

HEH HEH... I'VE BEEN PRACTICING IN SECRET EVER SINCE.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THE LAST TIME YOU PLAYED ME, YOU ENDED UP COVERED IN ACTUAL BLOOD?

Yahoo!!

SWISH

ガバッ LUNGE

...JUST USE IT...

53

IF I CAN...

1Hit ゴッ FWAM

56

I LEARNED A *REALLY BIG* THROW ATTACK.

ガバッ LUNGE

バッ?

3Hit

KAPOW ド

POW 十

2Hit

4Hit

5Hit

POW 十

POW 十

POW 十

I WASN'T DOING MY THROW...

I WAS TRYING TO GIVE HER A HUG.

...NO, UM... I WASN'T TRYING IT THAT TIME.

...SHE STOPPED EVERY ONE OF YOUR "BIG ATTACKS" WITH HER LITTLE PUNCHES.

EXCEL-LENT!!

YOU LOSE!!

OH... I SEE. THAT *IS* BIG... A BIG EXCUSE.

I JUST GOT INTO MY "WHOSOEVER SHALL SMITE THEE ON THY UPPER BODY, TURN TO HIM THE MIDDLE TORSO ALSO" ZONE... THAT'S ALL.

LET'S PLAY A LESS SERIOUS GAME.

LOOK, ISN'T THAT ONE CUTE?

OOOH! WHAT IS IT?!

L-LET ME TRY IT AGAIN!

If you keep going, you'll never stop!

NO, NO, NO!!

I BET EVERY-BODY HERE IS A GOLIATH-LEVEL POWER PLAYER!

GRN

I THINK I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.

OH! THAT ONE'S CUTE...

AAAH, SO YOU USE THAT CLAW TO GRAB THE THINGS INSIDE ...

OKAY, SO THIS IS WHERE YOU CONTROL IT.

SOME-THING LIKE IT.

WHRRR

WHAT? YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE?

WOW, SO YOU'VE BEEN TO JAPAN BEFORE, TOO.

YOU KNOW, I'M NOT SURE. ...LAST TIME I TRIED, I COULDN'T PULL UP A SINGLE THING.

ARE YOU GOOD AT THIS KIND OF THING, BUDDHA?

WHAT? THEY HAVE THESE GAMES IN THE HEAVENS ?!

NO, I DID IT IN THE HEAVENS ...

OH! I GOT IT, I GOT IT...

AWW, BUT IT'S JUST LIKE LAST TIME.

ALL THE OTHERS ARE GRABBING ONTO IT.

GTCH

GTCH

GTCH

TAGS: EVERYDAY IS SUNDAY - WARM FUZZY-KUN

BUDDHA... YOUR "HEAVENLY CLAW MACHINE"... YOU DON'T ACTUALLY MEAN...

はぐる

WHY CAN'T ANYONE EVER THINK OF ANYONE BUT THEMSELVES?

THEN THE THREAD SNAPS, AND IT'S ALL OVER.

SNAP

THUD

I THINK *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO NEEDS A GAME THAT'S LESS SERIOUS!!

I gave them the spider's thread and everything...

IS IT TRUE THAT ONCE YOU'VE FALLEN TO THE DEPTHS OF HELL, YOU NEVER CAN RISE TO BUDDHA-HOOD?

BUT THE ARCADE STAFF LET ME HAVE IT BECAUSE THE THREAD BROKE.

I FEEL LIKE I'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO SAVE A SOUL.

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! I FELT SO BAD FOR THE CLAW MACHINE.

I HAD TO STOP WATCHING!

WAIT. IS THAT ...?

We're Slashing Prices CLEARANCE CHEAP

BIG SALE

Get 'em cheap!!

Kitchen Fair

UGH.

You be a good boy, now.

OKAY, I'M GONNA NAME YOU "KANDATA."

YES, THANK YOU! NOW I CAN FINALLY...

DING-ALING

THIS IS GREAT, BUDDHA!

NOW YOU CAN FINALLY BUY IT!

WHAT...?

Kitchen Fair

LOOK, BUDDHA, OVER THERE! ISN'T THAT THE RICE COOKER YOU WANTED?

WHOA, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S DOWN TO LESS THAN 60,000 YEN!!

SPECIAL PRICE 59,800

While they last!!

Special Price!

GO BACK TO THE FIRST SHOP AND NEGOTIATE FOR A BETTER PRICE!

I can get it down another 3,000 yen.

UH... YEAH...

I GUESS YOU CAN.

...SO IT IS WRIT-TEN...

THE RICE IS ALL STANDING UP STRAIGHT!!

PUFF

OOHH!

PUFF

...THE SMELL OF RICE IS THE SMELL OF HAPPINESS.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DO RICE RIGHT!

HEH HEH HEH. I KNEW YOU'D BE IMPRESSED.

W-WOW... HOW DO YOU DO THAT? THIS IS INCREDIBLY DELICIOUS!

I THOUGHT YOU NEVER TOOK A SIDE.

WHAT? YOU ARE?

At any rate, I'd like rice again tomorrow morning.

BUT I THINK THIS MIGHT SWAY ME A LITTLE.

WOW, I'M TOTALLY IN THE "BREAD" CAMP.

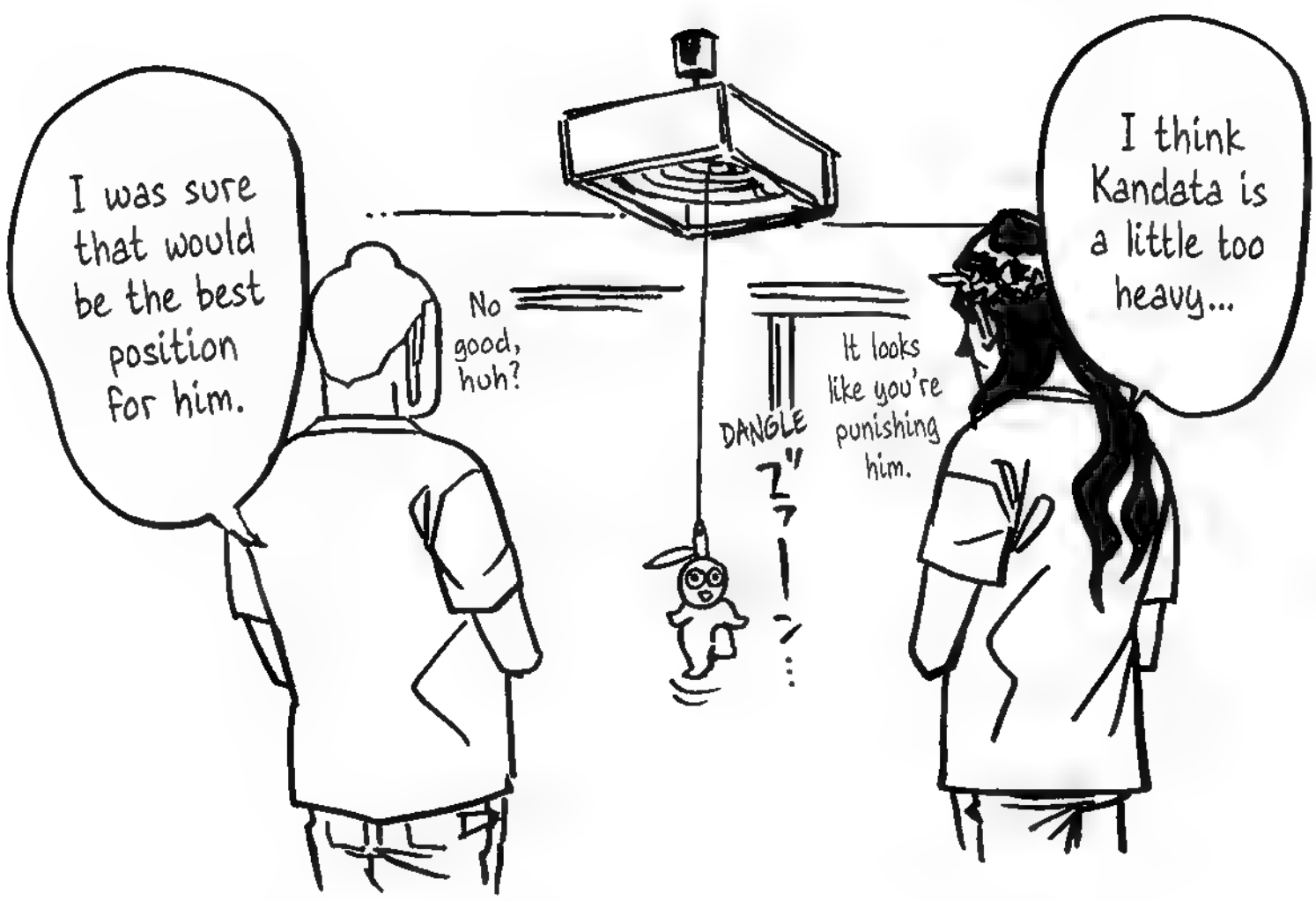
BUDDHA'S NEXT TARGET: AN ISHIGAMA STEAM OVEN TOASTER.

NO, I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE'S PREFERRED FOOD STAPLES!

Rice at night.

Bread in the morning.

DIDN'T YOU SAY, "MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE"?


I was sure that would be the best position for him.
No good, huh?
DANGLE
I think Kandata is a little too heavy...
It looks like you're punishing him.

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

WOW, YOUR HAIR'S GOTTEN SO LONG.

SNIP

SNIP

YES, THEY ARE.

SO DON'T MOVE. THEY CAN CUT ANYTHING.

They look *really* heavy-duty...

...UH, BUDDHA. AREN'T THOSE THE SCISSORS YOU'RE ALWAYS USING TO CUT THE TOPS OFF OF EGGPLANTS?

NO... THE ARCHANGELS GAVE IT TO ME. THEY SAID IF I WAS GOING TO EARTH I SHOULD KEEP IT ON AT ALL TIMES.

No, *I'm* sorry...

SORRY. IS IT THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

YOU DIDN'T WEAR IT IN THE HEAVENS ...

It's been growing.

WHOOSH

ACTUALLY, THESE SCISSORS MIGHT BE GOOD FOR PRUNING THAT CROWN OF THORNS, TOO.

AAHH, NO, NO! DON'T CUT IT!

YEAH. THEY DO ALWAYS WATCH OVER ME.

LIKE AN AMULET?

SO IT'S LIKE THEY'RE WATCHING OVER YOU! THAT'S REASSURING!

I MEAN, THIS CROWN...

...IS EQUIPPED WITH GPS.

If you don't like it, then you can use a child's cell phone!

Awww...

Use it if you're ever being persecuted!

Pull on this and the buzzer will go off, and Uriel will fly right to you!!

AND HE WAS KEEPING IT ON WITH VELCRO?

RIP

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 15

Thrice Stranded Bath Drinker

BUDDHA: ON RAINY DAYS, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE RAINBOW WHEN THE WEATHER LETS UP.

IT COULD BE FUN TO MAKE MYSELF OVER—GET A WHOLE NEW LOOK.

Selfie Face

ANYWAY, I'VE HAD THE SAME HAIRSTYLE FOR 21 CENTURIES.

JESUS: I TRIED USING SOME REALLY IMPRESSIVE FOOTWORK TO DODGE THE RAIN SO I WOULDN'T GET WET.

YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE KIND OF MAKEOVER, HUH?

"I want to change myself..." Is this you?

Then refresh your mind and body!!

WHY WERE YOU SO QUICK TO PULL OUT THAT RAZOR?

CHAK

OH, SOUNDS FUN. LET'S DO IT.

サイのツノ

SHIRT: RHINOCEROS HORN

WE MAY BE ON VACATION, BUT THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN IT'LL BE TIME FOR A SECOND COMING.

SIGH

AWW... OH, WELL. NEVER MIND.

OR MAYBE THIS BOB COULD REALLY WORK, TOO.

What do you think?

ANYWAY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT. I'M THINKING SOMETHING LIKE THIS SHORT 'DO...

WORKS YOUR FAVORITE JOHNNY

INTERESTING CHOICES. FOR NOW, MAYBE WE COULD STEP AWAY FROM THE JOHNNY DEPP FEATURES?

Maybe avoid the Scissorhands look.

OH! HOW PROFESSIONAL OF YOU.

THAT REMINDS ME...

AND THIS LOOK IS VERY IMPORTANT IN MY LINE OF WORK, SO I'LL JUST GO WITH THE USUAL, PLEASE.

UH, YEAH. OF COURSE...

SNIP シャキ

CAN I ASK YOU TO CUT MY HAIR NEXT?

シャキ SNIP

THERE, ALL DONE. TIME TO TRADE!

BUT... BUT HOW?!

SHIRT: I KNOW NOT THE MAN X3

YEAH... COOL.

GULP ゴク

BUT SINCE I SWITCHED TO THE TIGHT HAIR-KNOTS, I'VE JUST LET IT GO.

IN MY CLEAN-SHAVEN DAYS, I TOOK A RAZOR TO IT ALL THE TIME.

GH. GH. GH ゲ ゲ ゲ…

…HRGH…

サイのツノ

RUSTLE さわ RUSTLE さわ

サイのツノ

MY HEAD'S BEEN GETTING SO HEAVY LATELY.

It does make my shoulders stiff, too, you know?

知らんがな

THMP

AND IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I LAST HAD A HAIRCUT.

JESUS, WHATEVER'S BOTHERING YOU, DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF! TALK TO ME!

I'm pretty sure I've got some in my pottery set...

SWOON

WAIT A MINUTE. I'M GONNA GO GET SOME SANDPAPER.

IT'S JUST LONG HAIR CURLED REALLY TIGHT!

Like this

Curled

Long hair

MY HAIR IS THE SAME MATERIAL AS YOURS!

I JUST DON'T THINK YOUR HAIR IS THE KIND OF MATERIAL I CAN CUT WITH A PAIR OF KITCHEN SCISSORS.

HUH?

THE LIGHTS WENT OUT.

FZH

I WANT TO SEE—

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! NOT AFTER WE BROUGHT EVERYONE SAFELY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

GASP

WAIT, NO THEY DIDN'T. ...WE'RE OUTSIDE.

WHAT? YOU CAN?! THAT'S AWESOME!

I CAN TURN IT STRAIGHT IF I WANT TO. THEN YOU CAN JUST CUT IT LIKE NORMAL.

Wow!

It's curled with divine power...

BUDDHA WITH LONG HAIR...

BWOH

IT CAN'T BE THE END OF THE WORLD *NOW!*

知らない？

JESUS?

WOW, I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT.

SORRY. THAT'S MY HAIR.

LUSH

LUSH

HUH? WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE GROUND IS SO SOFT...

THUD

WAAAH!

IT IS SAID THAT JESUS WOULD LATER COMPARE THE FEELING TO WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE ON THE CAT BUS.

...I THOUGHT EVERYTHING SMELLED LIKE ASIENCE SHAMPOO!

ACTUALLY, THOUGH, I DON'T THINK I'VE CUT MY HAIR IN AT LEAST A CENTURY...

AND I HAD THIS MUCH HAIR PACKED INTO EVERY ONE OF MY CURLS.

THE COMPRESSION WAS GETTING MORE INTENSE BY THE DAY.

ザ7 CUT

ザ7 CUT

SOUNDS LIKE THE HERO OF A BATTLE MANGA.

YOU WERE GOING THROUGH LIFE WITH ALL THIS WEIGHT ON YOUR HEAD?

IF YOU HAD THAT MUCH DARKNESS IN YOUR HEART, I REALLY WISH YOU WOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING!

I WAS GETTING WORRIED THAT IF I LET IT KEEP GROWING, IT WOULD CREATE A BLACK HOLE.

WE DIDN'T SWEEP AWAY ANY OF THE SHORT HAIRS.

...NOT NICE. MY NECK IS ALL ITCHY.

RUB RUB

ゴシ GSH

ゴシ GSH

...

I KNOW, RIGHT? IT REALLY FEELS...

パン PAT

パン PAT

パン PAT

AHHH, THAT'S BETTER!

SHRRRR

I'LL GIVE IT TO PETER.

YOU COULD MAKE A FISHING NET WITH ALL THIS HAIR.

SHFF

SHFF

MY HEAD IS SO MUCH LIGHTER NOW!

LET'S TRY USING A BATTLE COMMAND OTHER THAN "ENDURE"!

YOU JUST FLIPPED THE ASCETIC SWITCH, DIDN'T YOU?

Yeah!

...BUT WE CAN HANDLE THIS!

NO... I THINK IT'S RISKY TO STAY HERE TOO LONG.

We could read books!

PAT PAT

LET'S JUST STAY HERE AND DO SOME SUNBATHING.

WHAT? BUT IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.

WE CAN'T GO BACK INTO OUR APARTMENT LIKE THIS. OUR HAIR WILL GET INTO THE FLOORING.

I KNOW IT'S EARLY, BUT WE COULD GO TO THE BATH HOUSE.

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

RUFFLE

RUFFLE

THE MANAGER WILL START THINKING WE'RE NEETS.

OH! GOOD AFTER-NOON!!

WHY? IT'S NOT LIKE THE NEIGH-BORHOOD KIDS WILL FIND US HERE...

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

HAVE YOU FINISHED THE PAPERWORK TO PAY FOR YOUR TV SERVICE?!!

HELLO, I'M FROM THE NHK*!

*NIPPON HÔSÔ KYÔKAI, JAPAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

EMPTINESS

NHK calling!!

HALT

DING DONG

I'M SORRY. THAT'S BECAUSE WHENEVER YOU RANG THE DOORBELL, WE WENT STRAIGHT TO MEDITATION TIME!

YES, WE'RE SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

SEI-SAN, I PRESUME?

SEE? I TOLD YOU.

WHAT? UM...!

HUFF

HUFF

WHEW, I WAS IN SUCH A PICKLE. YOU ARE NEVER HOME!

WE DON'T HAVE AN ANTENNA...

UM...

AS FAR AS PAYMENT METHODS, I'D RECOMMEND THE BI-MONTHLY BANK TRANSFER OF 2,690 YEN...

※ EVEN WITHOUT AN ANTENNA, ANYONE WITH RECEPTION EQUIPMENT MUST PAY FOR SERVICE.

OUR TV DOESN'T SUPPORT DIGITAL BROAD-CASTS, EITHER.

Take a look.

KZHH

YES, BUT YOU SEE? NO RECEPTION.

WHAT? BUT YOU HAVE A TV, DON'T YOU?

My brain only gets reception for Japanese dramas, and I watch those with my mind's eye.

WE ONLY WANTED IT TO WATCH DVDS, SO WE SPECIFICALLY BOUGHT A TV THAT DOESN'T SUPPORT DIGITAL BROAD-CASTING.

KZHHH

SFF

YEAH... I MEAN, WE HAD NO IDEA.

KZHH

GLANCE

HMM, I SEE...

THEY REALLY DON'T HAVE AN ANTENNA HOOKED UP.

SHUT

NO... WE WERE NOT LYING.

WE WEREN'T... REALLY LYING.

WE WILL! THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

I UNDER-STAND. WELL, LET US KNOW WHEN YOU GET ONE HOOKED UP!

KA-CHAK

PAH

BEEP

CAN YOU COME TOMOR-ROW?

WHAT SURPRISED ME MORE THAN ANY-THING...

WAH HA HA HA

OF COURSE!

*SATELLITE TV

WHEN THE WHOLE COUNTRY SWITCHES TO DIGITAL BROAD-CASTING IN 2011, YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

PERSONALLY, I'D LIKE YOU TO TRAIN EVEN MORE...

...SO WE CAN GET WOWOW*!

...IS THAT I CAN GET DIGITAL RECEPTION IF I TRY HARD ENOUGH.

TIMES LIKE THIS, I REALLY WISH WE'D GOTTEN AN APARTMENT WITH A BATHTUB, EVEN IF IT WASN'T QUITE IN OUR PRICE RANGE.

...creates an endless stream of hair flecks.

Tapping my head!...

WELL, THIS ISN'T GETTING US ANYWHERE. LET'S JUST GO TO THE BATHHOUSE.

IT'S JUST THE RIGHT DEPTH, AND REALLY I THINK IT'S PERFECT, BUT...

WHEN WE VIEWED THE APARTMENT, I FIGURED WE WOULDN'T NEED A BATH BECAUSE WE'RE SO CLOSE TO THE RIVER.

OH! SEI-SAN! WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE HERE EARLY TODAY!

Me, too.

BUT I'VE LEARNED TO LIKE THE BATH-HOUSE.

カ" RATTLE ラ RATTLE ラ

Huh ?!!

Freeze!

You there! What are you doing?!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE WAY THE POLICE LOOKED AT US—LIKE WE WERE DANGEROUS FREAKS.

SIGH

I had to use rapid fire buddha smiles...

THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY MEAN BY THE TERM "GENERATION GAP."

SO THERE *ARE* BENEFITS TO GOING TO THE BATH EARLY!

WHOA, REALLY?!

I JUST FILLED UP THE BATH! YOU'LL BE THE FIRST ONES TO USE IT!

OOOHH, WOW! WE REALLY DO HAVE IT ALL TO OURSELVES!

AAHH, NO, STOP! WE HAVE TO WASH OUR HAIR FIRST!

SPL

ASH

YEAH! DIVE!!

THIS IS KIND OF EXCITING!

AND I CAN'T KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE THROUGH THE WHOLE JOKE. I'LL HAVE TO FIX THAT.

...HM?

NO, SORRY. I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

Sigh...

SFF

I'M HOPELESS. WHY DO I ALWAYS SAY WHATEVER'S ON MY MIND?

OH, RIGHT. MY HAIR...

AH!

IT'S THE FIRST BATH— YOU CAN'T JUST GET IT ALL DIRTY!

SQUIRT

SQUIRT

...ARE DIVINE!

PFFT

OUR HAIRCUTS...

THAT PUN TURNED THE BATHWATER INTO HOT WINE?!

HUH? NO WAY!

...MAN PERM AND HIPPIE WILL BE FINISHED!!

IF HE THINKS I LAUGHED AT THAT ENOUGH TO CAUSE A MIRACLE...

Haramita

Hannya

SPLASH

FORGET DIRTYING THE BATH WATER!

THAT'S NOT GOOD! I NEED TO THINK OF SOMETHING SAD AND TURN IT BACK BEFORE BUDDHA FINDS OUT!!

...WHOA, WHAT THE...? JESUS, WHAT HAPPENED?

AGAPE!! AGAPE!!

SPLASH

SPLASH

AAAHH! THE BATH-WATER IS ALL RED!!

HIC!

CRIME.

UMM... WAR!

DESTRUC-TION OF THE ENVIRON-MENT.

AS LONG AS WE HAVE LOVE, THEY'LL ALL GO AWAY!!

BUT THAT'S OKAY!

SPL

ASH

SPLISH

YOU...
ARE SO...

SPLAAAASH

AH!

TRIP!

YOU CAN'T GET IN A BATH OF ALCOHOL! YOU'LL GET DRUNK FOR SURE—

GODS' HAIRCUTS ARE DIVINE!

YEAH, THAT'S THE ONE... IT IS JUST SO...

DIVINE HAIR-CUTS!

SHAKE

SHAKE

WHAT WAS IT? THAT PUN BACK THERE?

HOO HA HA HA HA HA HA

WHAP

WHAP

BAP

HAIR-RAISINGLY BAD!!

WHAT IN THE... THERE'S SOME NOISY KIDS IN THERE.

I THOUGHT I WAS THE FIRST ONE HERE.

Tch.

SPLASH

WA HA HA

HOO HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

SPLASH

YAKUZA ACQUAINTANCE: IS UNDER THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT JESUS IS THE HEIR TO A YAKUZA GANG.

I'D LOVE TO BRING MY DISCIPLES HERE...

AAAH, THIS IS THE BEST FEELING IN THE WORLD.

ON RAINY DAYS, HE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE SONG OF THE FROGS ♪

KEEP IT DOWN IN HERE!!

RATTLE

HEY, YOU LOUSY KIDS!!

OH... WHEN YOU DID THE WASHING, RIGHT?

IT REMINDS ME OF WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE THE LAST SUPPER...

TROMP

TROMP

JUST HOW MANY DID HE...

... WAIT, WHAT IN THE...? IT'S A BLOOD BATH IN HERE...

AAHH... I WISH I COULD GO BACK TO THOSE DAYS...

Whew...

THAT INJURY ON HIS SIDE. IS THAT SEI THE THREE-DAY PRISON-BREAKER?!

YOU WASHED THEIR FEET, RIGHT?

I WISH I COULD GO CLEAN AGAIN ...

SIGN: BATH

MAN, THAT MUST HAVE BEEN ROUGH, SEI-SAN!

DON'T BE STUPID!!

B-BUT, IT REALLY WAS OUR OWN FAULT...

THROB ズキ THROB ズキ

YEAH ...

THROB ズキ THROB ズキ

WHEN THERE'S THAT MUCH BOOZE INVOLVED, IT CAN COME BACK TO BITE YOU!

THE THIRTEENTH DISCIPLE WAS PREPARED FOR MARTYR-DOM.

WHY IS HE TRYING TO TAKE THE FALL?

This is some good wine.

No, it's fine, don't worry about it.

DRUNK ベロン

IT WAS ME! I DID IT ALL!! THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!!

He only went to the corner store and the bath again...
GPS

2

TRANSLATION NOTES

AN DWON DERZOF HIZLOV!
AN DWON DERZOF HIZLOV!
HE ENUNCIATES THE LYRICS SO CLEARLY.
HE MUST THINK THEY'RE RUSSIAN OR SOMETHING.
DOINK

He enunciates the lyrics, page 4

The lyrics seen here are from the Christmas carol "Joy to the World," originally written in English by Isaac Watts. While these particular lyrics are from the first verse, the translators chose to use words from the fourth verse, because they actually mention the Lord in this part of the melody. In the original Japanese version of this manga, Jesus is actually singing the Japanese lyrics, which are written in a classical form of Japanese. As such, this particular line, being so different from modern Japanese, is sometimes mistaken for a foreign language. Because of the way lyrics are often moved around in song translation (in order to fit the melody), the Japanese line translates to "the Lord is come," which would be an even more obvious giveaway of the origins of Christmas if the singer knew Classical Japanese.

Fried chicken on Christmas, page 5

A Christmas tradition that is unique to Japan is to get a meal of Kentucky Fried Chicken. This tradition is the result of a very successful marketing campaign launched by KFC in 1974, "Kentucky for Christmas."

Shortcut to enlightenment, page 12

By canceling out the sounds of the world, Buddha has discovered emptiness, or voidness, one of the central concepts of Buddhism. There are many ways to interpret the concept, but the main idea is that the world is empty, and by assigning tangibility, existence, etc. to things, we cause our own suffering.

The original Santa, page 13

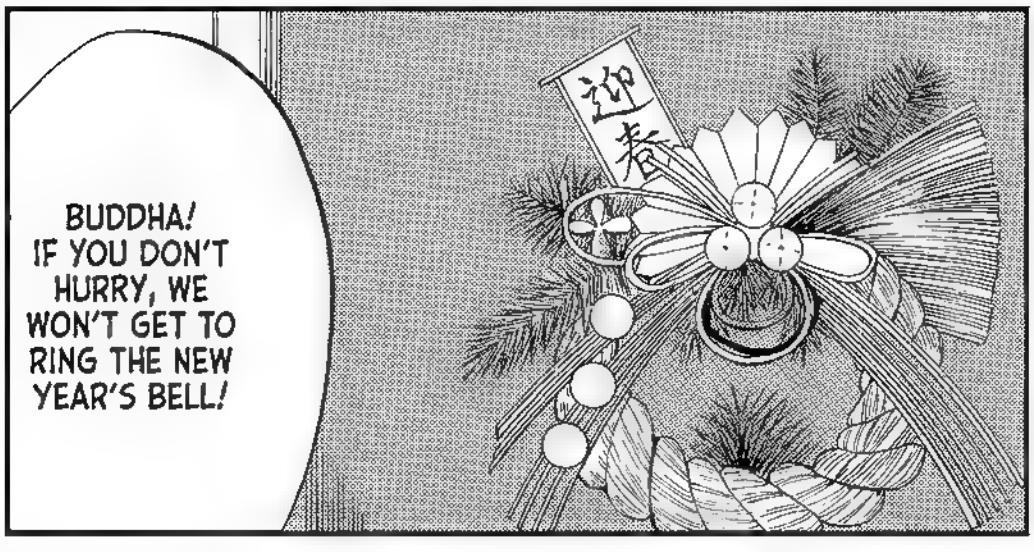
Believed to be the original Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas of Myra was a 4th-century bishop who was known for his generosity. One particular story that relates to the modern Santa tells of how he helped a poor family by throwing sacks of gold coins into their window in the middle of the night.

Just turned 24, page 20

Jesus began His ministry at the age of 30, and was crucified when He was about 33.

Welcome spring, page 23

This is a traditional New Year's greeting. Before Japan switched to the Western calendar, the new year was celebrated around February. February is a time when the weather starts to get warmer and the optimistic begin to welcome spring.

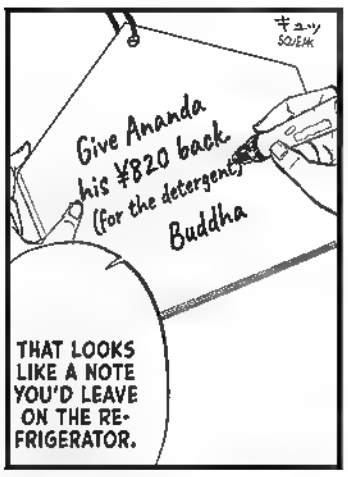


New Year's bell, page 23

In Japan, it's a New Year's tradition to visit a shrine or temple within the first three days of the new year, to express gratitude for the previous year and pray for a good new year. The New Year's Bell is rung 108 times, around midnight on New Year's Eve. One theory as to why is that the number 108 represents the types of worldly desires that exist in the world, and hearing the bell ring can purify your heart of those worldly desires that had built up over the last year.

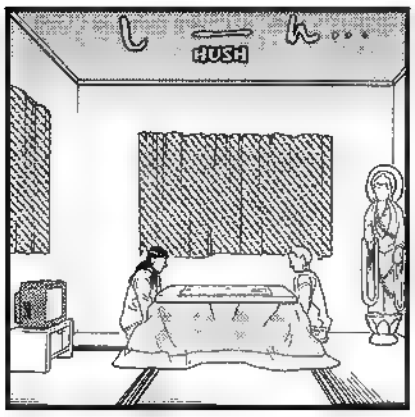
Rahula, page 23
Rahula is the name of Siddhartha Gautama's son, who was either born or conceived on the day Siddhartha renounced his throne, depending on which tradition of Buddhism is telling the story. Rahula later becomes a disciple of Buddha and achieves enlightenment himself.

Good Samaritan, page 24
This is a reference to one of Jesus's more famous parables. Jesus told an expert of Jewish law that the second great law is to "love thy neighbor as thyself," to which the lawyer responded, "Who is my neighbor?" To answer that question, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. A Jewish man is robbed, beaten, and left by the side of the road to die. After two men pass by him and refuse to help, a Samaritan stops to help. Samaritans were a group of people who were so hated by the Jews that they would take a long detour around Samaria just to avoid them, so this Samaritan shows great compassion by helping the Jew anyway, setting the example to love even those who may not show love in return.



Prayer plaques, page 25
The plaques they are looking at are called *ema,* and are used to write wishes or prayers that are offered to a god or gods of a shrine. Or, since this is a Buddhist temple, the wishes and prayers will be offered up to Buddha.

Sachiko Kobayashi, page 29
Sachiko Kobayashi is a famous singer of *enka,* a style of Japanese ballad. As the reader may surmise from this portrayal, she is known for her over-the-top costumes, some of which even light up. She has appeared many times in the *Kôhaku Uta Gassen,* a special New Year's TV program featuring celebrity singers that is one of Japan's top-rated musical events of the year.



Kotatsu, page 33
In Japanese homes, central heating isn't always a feature. Instead, everyone sits around a *kotatsu,* which is a kind of table that has a heater under it.

Futon, page 33
Unlike the futons we use in America, a Japanese futon has two parts. The thicker part is laid on the floor and used as a mattress, while the thinner part is used as a blanket.

Hakodate and the Seikan Tunnel, page 39
While Jesus dreamed that they went all the way to the southern end of Japan in the previous year, this year, he dreams that they go up north to Hakodate in Hokkaido. The Seikan Tunnel is an undersea tunnel that connects Japan's main island to Hokkaido.

Brahma, page 41
Brahma, or Bonten in Japanese, is a leading god in Buddhism. After Buddha achieved enlightenment, it was Brahma who appeared to him and convinced him to save others by teaching what he had learned.

The Sanzu River, page 42

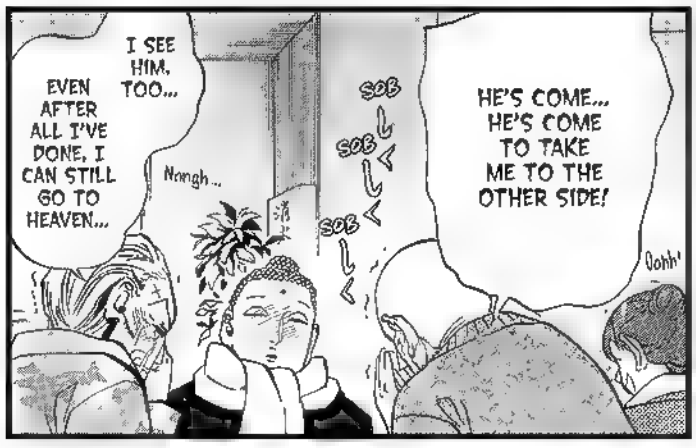
According to Japanese Buddhist tradition, the Sanzu River, or River of Three Crossings, is the river separating the land of the living from the land of the dead. After life, all spirits must cross this river on the way to their eternal home.

Abraham Age 100, page 43

Abraham is a respected figure in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. He is considered the "father of the faithful," and Jesus's mother Mary is his direct descendant through his son Isaac. Abraham was long promised that he would be the father of nations, but he and his wife Sarah were unable to have children. When Sarah was past childbearing years, Abraham was visited by three holy men, who promised that the couple would have a son. Miraculously, Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old.

Privately owned taxi, page 46

In Japan, it's easy to tell which company owns a taxi based on the color. The white taxis are privately owned—meaning the driver works for him or herself, not for a company.



Come to take me to the other side, page 48

It may go without saying that many Buddhists believe that Buddha will come when they die to guide them to the afterlife.

Sick people generally get better as soon as I get close to them, page 52

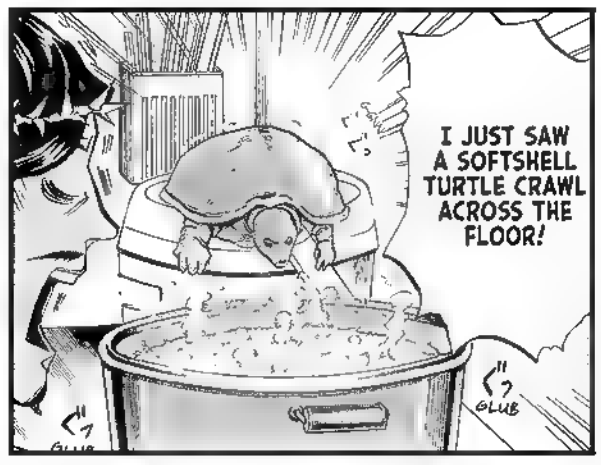
Strictly speaking, there is not an incident of this happening anywhere in accepted Christian scripture. In the New Testament, generally the patient desires healing and Jesus consciously heals them, according to their faith. However, here, Jesus may be saying that as soon as he gets close to someone, they are as good as healed because he can heal them instantly.

A week is long enough for my Dad to make the whole world, page 53

According to the Old Testament, the world was created in six creative periods called days. Some denominations believe that it was Jesus Himself who created the earth, under the direction of His Father. The seventh day was used to rest, and to commemorate this day of rest, the Sabbath was instituted as a day to rest from worldly labors and to worship the Lord.

Soft-shell turtle soup, page 54

Soft-shell turtle are a low-fat source of food that is rich in nutrients. Not only are they a good source of vitamins and minerals, but they have long been used in Chinese medicine, and are believed to increase longevity and boost the libido.



White mustard seeds, page 54

This is a reference to a story where Buddha helped a woman named Kisa Gotami, who could not believe that her baby had died. She carried the baby on her back as she went around asking for medicine that could help him. Eventually she was sent to ask Buddha, who told her that the medicine she needed could be made of mustard seeds, but they had to be procured from a home where no one had lost a loved one to death. As she went around asking her fellow villagers for mustard seeds, she learned that everyone has lost a loved one, and she learned to accept the truth of her son's death. She then became one of Buddha's disciples.

The ark will safely see you through, page 55

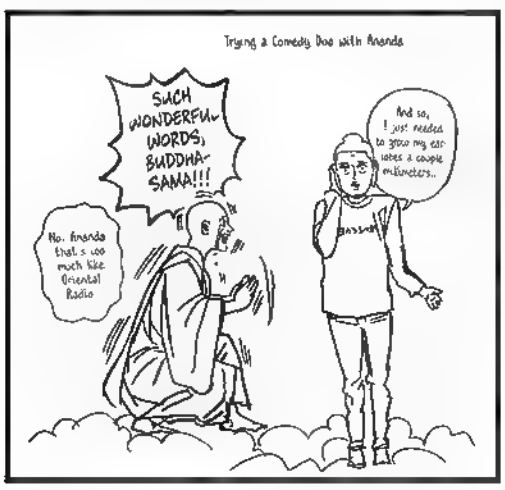
There is a Japanese saying, "Think of it as getting on a large boat!" The idea is that a large boat is a reliable one and will make sure you safely arrive at the your destination (or the other side of a trial you may be going through). The ark was a very large boat made by Noah to withstand the storm that flooded the whole earth, and would be very reliable indeed.

Miso-terious whey, page 56

The translators would like to apologize for this terrible attempt at translating a pun. In Japanese, the phrase "God only knows" translates to *Kami nomizo shiru,* which happens to sound very much like a phrase meaning "God's miso soup (*Kami no miso-shiru*)."

M-1 Grand Prix, page 56

The M-1 Grand Prix is an annual comedy competition where comedians from all over Japan compete in tournament-style contests to be the best manzai act in Japan.


Trying a Comedy Duo with Ananda
SUCH WONDERFUL WORDS, BUDDHA-SAMA!!!
And so, I just needed to grow my ear lobes a couple millimeters..
No. Ananda that's too much like Oriental Radio

Oriental Radio, page 57

Oriental Radio is the comedy duo Atsuhiko Nakata and Shingo Fujimori. They made it to the semifinals of the M-1 Grand Prix in 2004 and 2007, but failed to win the championship both times.

Moses-san's miracle, page 60

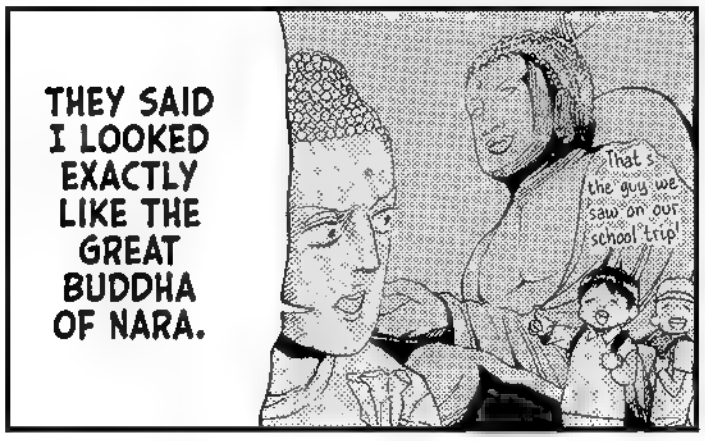
Here, Jesus is referring to the time the prophet Moses led the Children of Israel away from enslavement in Egypt. The Egyptians weren't happy to see them go, so Pharaoh sent his armies to bring them back. When the Israelites made it to the Red Sea, Moses used the power of God to part the waters, and they were able to walk across on dry ground. The sea closed behind them, drowning Pharaoh's armies.

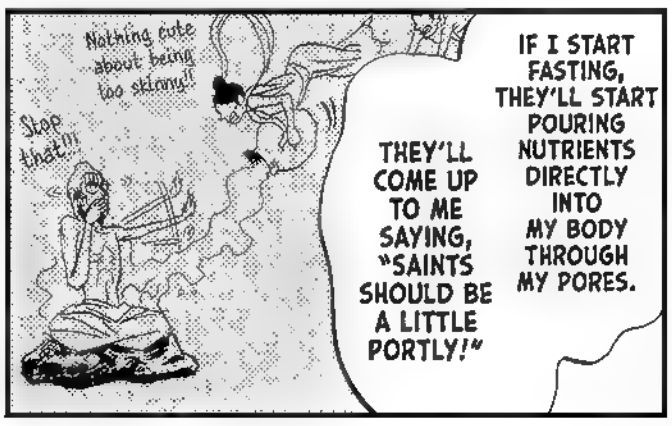
Veronica, page 60

According to Christian tradition, Veronica is a woman who walked with Jesus as He made His way to Golgotha. She took pity on Him and offered Him her veil so that He could wipe the blood and sweat off of His face. When He handed it back to her, an image of His face had been miraculously imprinted on it. The cloth came to be known as the Veil of Veronica, and in fact, the name Veronica is Latin for "true image."

The Great Buddha of Nara, page 61

The Great Buddha of Nara is the world's largest bronze statue of Buddha, and is found on the grounds of the Tôdai-ji Temple. At 14.98m tall, it is about a meter and a half taller than the Great Buddha of Kamakura.




Nothing cute about being too skinny!
Stop that!!!
THEY'LL COME UP TO ME SAYING, "SAINTS SHOULD BE A LITTLE PORTLY!"
IF I START FASTING, THEY'LL START POURING NUTRIENTS DIRECTLY INTO MY BODY THROUGH MY PORES.

Nutrients through his pores, page 65

When Siddhartha Gautama renounced his royal life and started his ascetic training, the deities saw him fasting, and, not wanting him to starve himself to death, offered to feed him divine food through the pores of his skin. He refused on the grounds that even divine food would be breaking his fast.

Oni Park, page 65

Nishikidaini Park is a park in Tachikawa that is known for its playground slide that is built to look like an Oni, a demon from Japanese folklore that is traditionally depicted with horns and a scowl.

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE *HENRO* PILGRIMS?! YOU'RE STEREOTYPING THE WHOLE RELIGION!!
Walking Distance
SOME OF YOUR PEOPLE THINK THAT THE ENTIRE PERIMETER OF SHIKOKU ISLAND IS A GOOD WALKING DISTANCE...

Shikoku Island, page 66

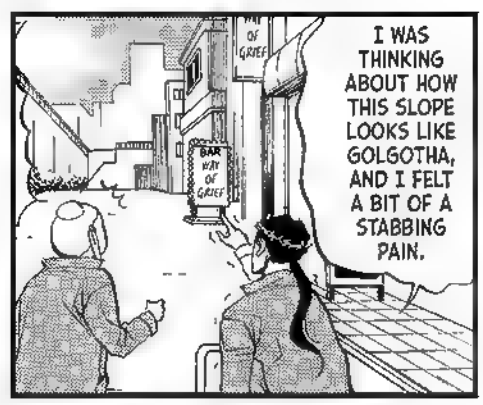
More particularly, Jesus is referring to the Shikoku Pilgrimage, a 1200-km journey (traditionally made on foot) to visit the 88 Buddhist temples situated on the island, made in honor of the Japanese Buddhist monk Kobo Daishi, who founded the Shingon sect. People who make this journey are referred to as *henro,* or pilgrims.

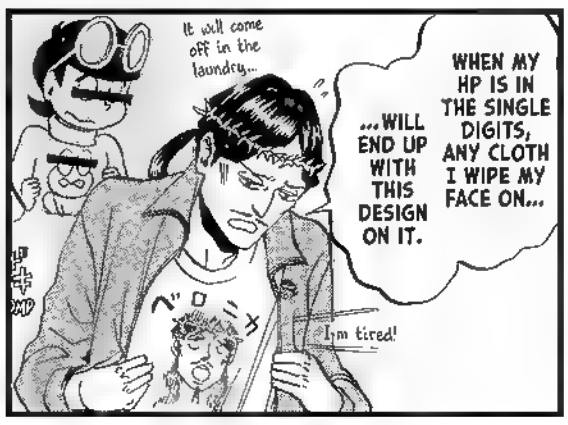
Shooting Star of Bethlehem, page 66

This is a play on the Star of Bethlehem, a new star that appeared in the sky on the night of Jesus's birth, and led the Wise Men from the East on their way to find Him.

Way of Grief, page 67

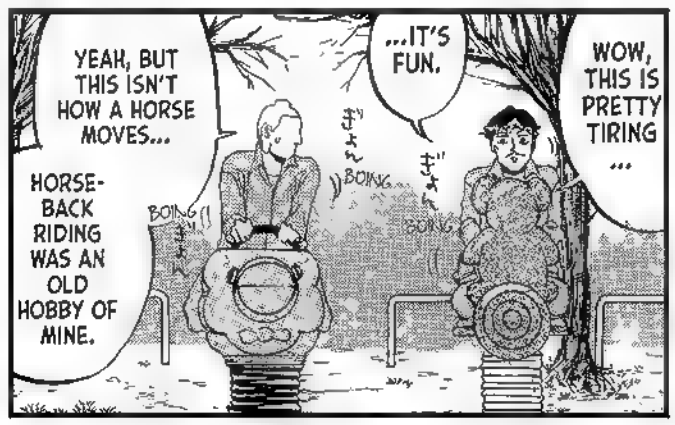
While this modern slope probably bears no resemblance to the hill Golgotha, it does bear a reminder. The bar is called *Kanashimi no Michi,* or "Way of Grief," which is a translation of Via Dolorosa, the name of the path in Jerusalem that is believed to be the path Jesus walked on the way to His crucifixion.




It will come off in the laundry...
...WILL END UP WITH THIS DESIGN ON IT.
WHEN MY HP IS IN THE SINGLE DIGITS, ANY CLOTH I WIPE MY FACE ON...
I'm tired!

Frog shirt, page 70

The character in the background looking shamefully at his shirt is Hiroshi, the main character of *Dokonjô-Gaeru,* or *The Gutsy Frog.* Hiroshi tripped in the park and squashed a frog named Pyonkichi, who then used his extreme gutsiness to stay alive as an imprint on Hiroshi's shirt. The frog can now speak in human language and offer commentary on Hiroshi's life.



Rodeo Boy, page 71

Rodeo Boy is a type of fitness machine that simulates horseback riding to build core strength. It looks like a saddle on a machine.

Winning more drinks, page 74

Some vending machines in Japan have a bit of a lottery feature, and if you choose the right drink at the right time, you win an extra drink. While Jesus is most likely choosing sports drinks, the vending machine keeps giving him *oshiruko,* a kind of dessert soup made of azuki red beans.

Thy will be done, page 75

When Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane, He suffered for the sins and pains of all humankind. Knowing that it was going to be an excruciating experience, He prayed to the Father and asked, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." He then went on to carry out the Atonement as His Father desired.

Kanthaka, page 77

Kanthaka is the name of Siddhartha Gautama's favorite horse, who was his loyal servant in the palace before he renounced the world.

Salome, page 78

There are two famous Salomes in the New Testament. One is not mentioned by name in the Bible but is named by the contemporary historian Josephus. She was the daughter of Herodias, who danced before King Herod, pleasing him enough that he promised to give her anything she wanted. Under her mother's instructions, she asked for the head of John the Baptist on a silver platter, and the Baptist was subsequently beheaded.

More likely the Salome referred to on this t-shirt is the wife of Zebedee and mother of the apostles James and John.

A Night at 15, A Night at 29, page 82

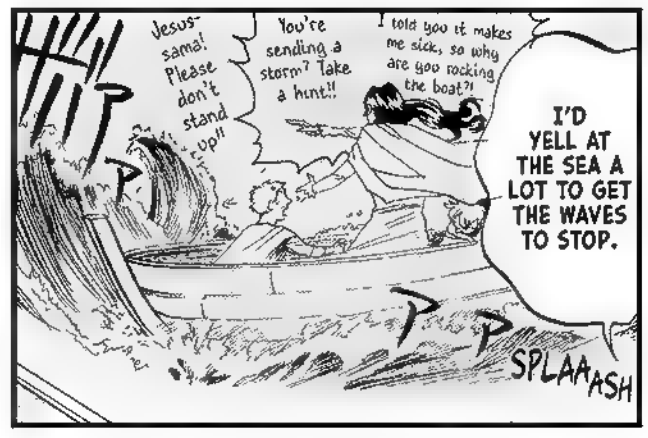
Jesus is singing a song he made up that is based on Yutaka Ozaki's "A Night at 15," in which he sings about being fed up with his school and home life, so he runs away from home (but the part about breaking windows comes from another song of his, "Graduation"). Similarly, Siddhartha Gautama ran away from his life as a prince at the age of 29 to begin his quest for enlightenment. As for the reference to Jetavana, Jetavana is a Buddhist monastery in India, where Buddha is said to have spent most of his ministry.

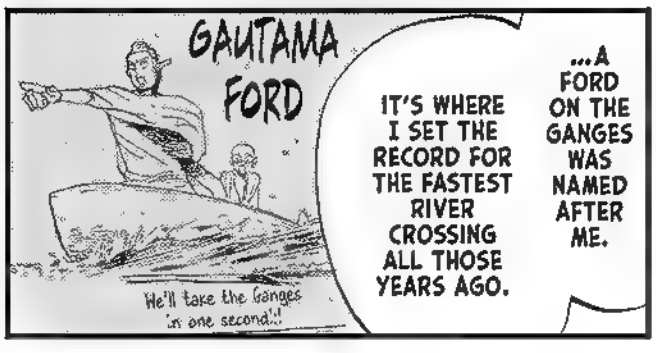
You will be the king of the world, page 83

It is said that at Siddhartha's naming ceremony, eight Brahmin scholars were invited to predict the baby's future. All of them predicted that he would either be a great king or a holy man. Siddhartha's father wanted him to be a king, and so kept him secluded inside the palace to prevent him from learning about religion or about human suffering, because if he knew about human suffering, he may choose to be a holy man to help relieve it.

Stopping the waves, page 89

There is a popular story in the Bible (told in the Gospels more than once) about when Jesus and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee and got caught in one of its many storms. This one was so bad that the waves filled the ship with water. While the disciples feared that the ship was going to sink, Jesus slept. When the disciples woke Him up and asked that He save them all from drowning, He commanded the winds and the waves to stop, at which point the storm abated.


Jesus-sama! Please don't stand up!!
You're sending a storm? Take a hint!!
I told you it makes me sick, so why are you rocking the boat?!
I'D YELL AT THE SEA A LOT TO GET THE WAVES TO STOP.
SPLAAASH


GAUTAMA FORD
IT'S WHERE I SET THE RECORD FOR THE FASTEST RIVER CROSSING ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
...A FORD ON THE GANGES WAS NAMED AFTER ME.
We'll take the Ganges in one second!!

Gautama ford, page 90

This may be a reference to a story from Buddha's last journey, when he needed to cross the Ganges. The river was very wide at that point, and to help him cross, some people went looking for a boat or something to float on, while others started making rafts. Then suddenly Buddha vanished and reappeared on the other side of the river.

Bethlehem and Bodh Gaya, page 95

Both of these are famous pilgrimage sites for devout followers of their respective religions. Bethlehem is where Jesus Christ was born, and Bodh Gaya is where Buddha obtained enlightenment.

AN ELECTRONICS STORE IS LIKE A DIFFERENT COUNTRY ON EVERY FLOOR...
...DAD HAD COME AND CONFOUNDED THE LANGUAGE OF AKIBA SO IT WOULDN'T GET ANY MORE ADVANCED!
Sigh...

Babel, page 95

Babel is the capital of Babylon, a place that is often used in the Bible to refer to "the world," as opposed to the Kingdom of God. It is also the place where humankind attempted to build a tower high enough to reach Heaven, thus incurring the wrath of God, who punished them by making it so they all spoke different languages.

I renounced the world, page 95

Buddha's shirt says that he has performed *shukke,* which means he has abandoned his past life of worldly pleasures for a life of religious service. If the kanji characters for *shukke* are reversed, they become *iede,* and the sentence becomes, "I ran away from home."

Kuroshima, page 95

Kuroshima is an island in Nagasaki Prefecture that was settled by *Kakure Kirishitan,* or "Hidden Christians." Christianity was brought to Japan in the 1500s, but when Toyotomi Hideyoshi came into power after the Warring States Period, reports of warlike behavior from Japanese lords who had converted to Christianity, as well as a desire to curb foreign influence, led him to outlaw the religion. Christians suffered intense persecution, and those who refused to denounce their faith had to go into hiding or face execution. In order to smoke out these hidden Christians, government officials used pictures of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary called *fumi-e,* or "trample picture." If a citizen was willing to trample on one of these pictures, it served as proof that they were not a Christian.

Mara, page 102

Mara is the demon that tried to tempt Buddha away from the meditation. First, he tempted him with visions of beautiful women, then he threatened him with monsters. Buddha resisted all these temptations and sat still through the whole ordeal. When Mara realized there was no swaying Buddha, he disappeared, and it was at this point that Buddha attained enlightenment.

ONLY THE SANTA AND SHINSENGUMI COSTUMES I BOUGHT HERE ON EARTH.
Ha ha ha, it looks great on you!
Oohh!
SO DO YOU HAVE A LOT OF OUTFITS LIKE THESE?

Outfits like these, page 103

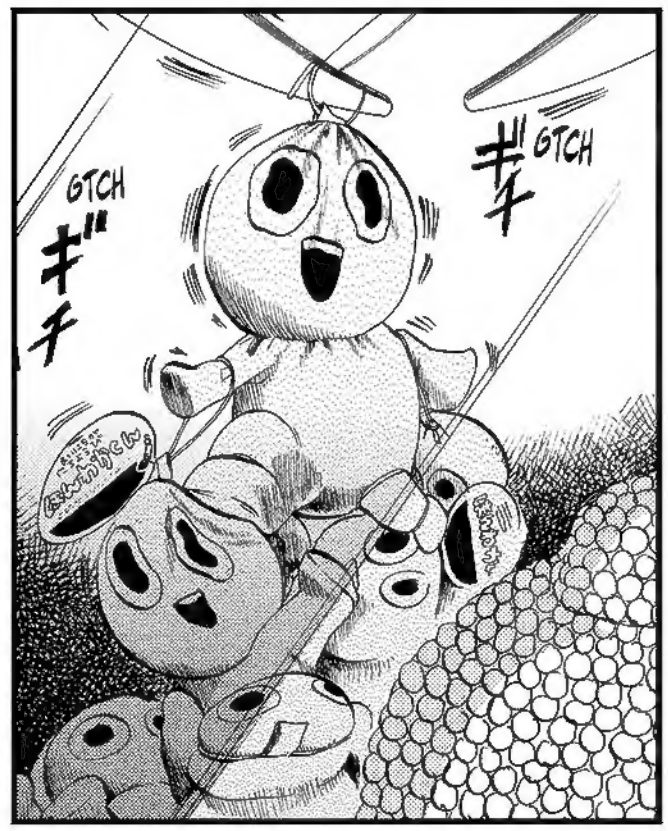
While many military uniforms can be found in anime through all ages of time, this particular costume most closely resembles that of Char Aznable, the infamous masked man of the very first *Gundam* series.

Goliath, page 107

When the Children of Israel were at war with the Philistines, the Philistines' greatest hero Goliath challenged them to a one-on-one duel. Goliath was a very large and powerful man, and most of the Israelites were afraid to face him. It was little David, who was only there to bring food to his older brothers, who accepted Goliath's challenge, having faith that God would deliver His people. David used a sling to throw a stone at Goliath, which hit him right between the eyes and killed him instantly.

Buddha's spider's thread, page 108

This is a reference to the famous short story, "The Spider's Thread," by Ryûnosuke Akutagawa. A man named Kandata is guilty of various crimes and finds himself in hell. The man had accomplished one good deed in life, and that was to avoid a spider instead of stepping on it. Because of this good deed, Buddha gives the criminal a chance to redeem himself by lowering a single strand of spider's thread to him, for him to climb up. As the man climbs, other convicted sinners see the way out of hell and start to climb up behind him. Concerned that their weight will cause the thread to break, the man shouts at the others to get off—the thread is his. At that point, the thread breaks, and the man had condemned himself to remain in hell by refusing to share his salvation.



Man shall not live by bread alone, page 110

For some clarification on what Jesus did mean, He went on to say, "But by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." In other words, spiritual nourishment is at least as important as physical nourishment.

Rhinoceros Horn, page 115

"Rhinoceros Horn" is a literal translation of the name of the Rhinoceros Sutra, a very early Buddhist text. The main theme of the sutra is the virtue of "wandering alone, like a rhinoceros horn," or in other words, seeking enlightenment alone, as opposed to with others.

The Second Coming, page 115

As it states in Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour [of the Second Coming] knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

I know not the man x3, page 116

Before Jesus was arrested, he predicted that His apostle Peter would deny Him three times, although Peter insisted that he would never forsake Him. Nevertheless, when Jesus was on trial and Peter was watching the proceedings, three times someone recognized him as one of Jesus's disciples, and all three times Peter insisted that Jesus was a stranger to him.

I'll give it to Peter, page 119

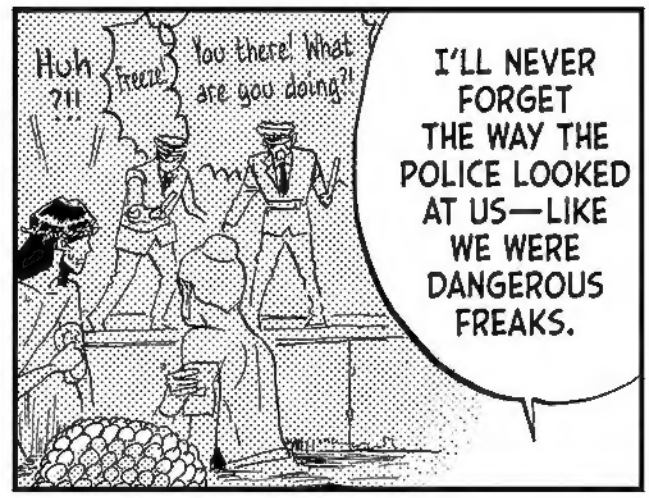
Before Peter became one of Jesus's apostles, he made a living as a fisherman.

Can you come tomorrow, page 122

This is a famous line from the Japanese variety show, *Morita Kazuyoshi Hour: Waratte Ii Tomo! (It's Okay to Laugh!)*, broadcast by Fuji TV. The last segment of each episode was "Telephone Shocking," where the host Tamori (Kazuyoshi Morita) would telephone someone that day's guest introduced as a friend. At the end of the call, he'd ask the other person if they could come be on the show the next day.

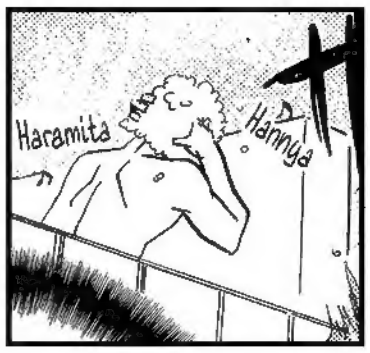
Close to the river, page 123

Back in the days before indoor plumbing, like during Jesus's and Buddha's ministries, people bathed in rivers.



Divine haircuts, page 124

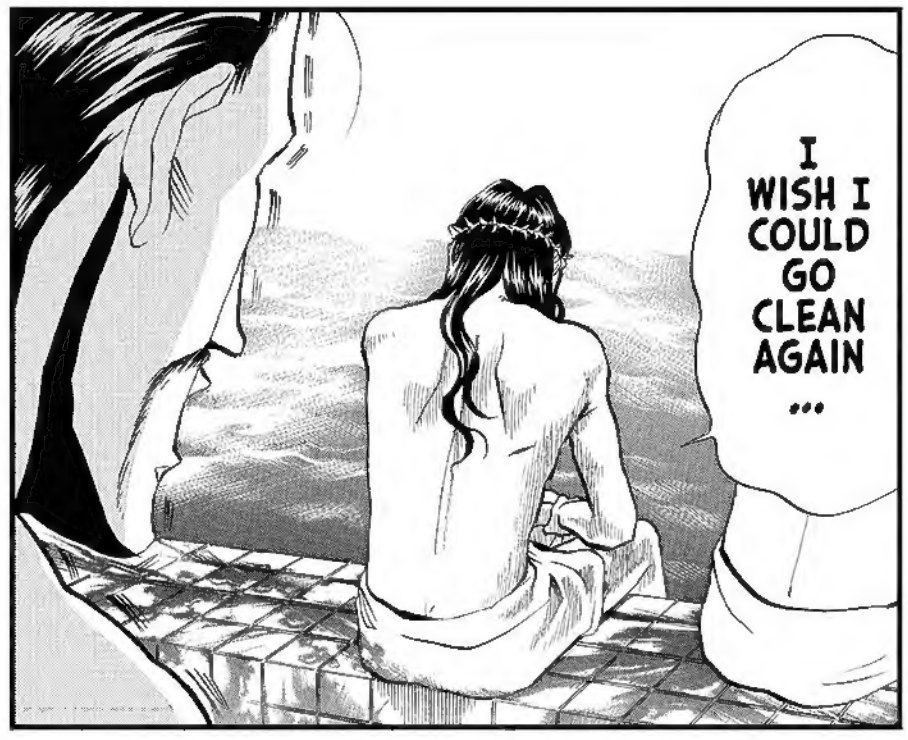
In Japanese, haircuts are so divine that the word for "hair (*kami*)" and the word for "god (*kami*)" are the same.



Hannya haramita, page 125

Here, Buddha is reciting the Japanese pronunciation of the Heart Sutra, a sutra that contains the heart of Buddhist teachings and is recited every day in Zen temples.

You washed their feet, right?, page 127-128



In the days of Jesus's ministry, the most common mode of transportation was to walk, sandals were a common form of footwear, and many roads were not paved, so people's feet got to be very dirty and required washing. This washing was usually performed by lowly servants, but at the Last Supper, Jesus, the Lord of all, personally washed the feet of His 12 apostles, partly to show them an example of humility.

In Japan, the phrase "to wash one's feet" is used to mean "to wash one's hands (of a certain business)," or "to turn over a new leaf." In the original Japanese text, the conversation goes more like this: "It reminds me of what happened before the Last Supper." "Oh, when you did the washing. What did you wash again?" "Aah, I wish I could go back to those days. I want to wash feet." The yakuza friend comes in just in time to hear that last sentence and assumes Jesus wants to get out of the organized crime business. Because the English version of the idiom doesn't match the Biblical account, the dialogue was adapted accordingly.

Saint Young Men 2

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